GREEN PARTY OF ENGLAND AND WALES AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2024 FIRST AGENDA

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SECTION A

REPORTS AND MOTIONS SUBMITTED TO CONFERENCE

A01

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (SOC) REPORT

Tim Kiely*, Ash Routh, Martin Hemingway, Melanie Earp, Sarah Bingham

MOTION

[To be supplied with the Final Agenda – additionally, SOC notes that there is likely to be a request from GPRC to include the ratification of the 2024 General Election manifesto as part of this report, which it is minded to accept and will elaborate on as part of the final report. A link to that document is included below:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=35562715-78aa-43c5-9f7f-d5aa5a0b3644&hash sha1=87cbccdc]

A02

POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (PDC) REPORT

Anne Gayfer*

MOTION

PDC Report to conference (revised)
Anne Gayfer 29 July 2024

A Policy Development Committee (PDC) Report is not required to go to Conference. However, there is now a significant backlog of policy, which is making it hard for PDC and policy working groups to function effectively. The PDC annual report, which will update members of PDC's activities over the last year will go to the AGM. **This report contains**

 Appendix A: Details of minor changes to the Policy for a Sustainable Society which conference is recommended to approve.

PDC is empowered to make minor changes to Policies for a Sustainable Society (PSS) between AGMs and conferences, such as updating out-of-date terminology (for instance, mention of organisations which no longer exist) and ensuring that Acts of Parliament referred to are current. **All such changes will be reported to Conference** through the Policy Development Committee report, so that an **opportunity is provided to challenge** each change and, if the AGM or Conference so decides, reverse it (clause 14iv of the constitution).

These changes represent in some cases several back years' of changes . **PDC recommends to conference** that these are approved to appear as part the PSS.

 Appendix B: Changes to policy statements that have been approved by GPRC and conference is requested to approve

Appendix B1&B2 Changes to the Record of Policy Statements

Record of Policy Statements

Policies included in RoPS may be amended, archived or deleted by the approval of a motion to Conference. In addition, all policies in RoPS should be reviewed by Policy Development Committee two years after their adoption and at regular intervals thereafter. If the Committee considers that all or part of any of the policies therein are now outdated, they can propose their amendment, archiving to a dedicated area of the members' website or deletion by a subsequent meeting of Regional Council. Archived RoPS entries will remain in force as policy statements, but will not be actively promoted through the public policy website. All decisions to alter, archive and/or delete RoPS entries will be reported to the AGM or Spring Conference through the Policy Development Committee report (clause 14ix of the constitution).

As part of the PSS, approved policy statements are recorded down the side of the main PSS page. PDC are required to recommend archiving (remain policy but not actively promoted) or deletion on a rolling basis. A record of archived and deleted policy statements will be maintained on the <u>PDC Green Space</u>. Policies reported to conference for archiving or deletion are in this <u>folder</u>.

These changes also represent several years' backlog. Where it was not clear whether a policy was out of date, changes that impinged on the work of policy working groups were checked with them.

Appendix B3: 2019 Manifesto

For completeness, PDC intends to recommend to GPRC that this be deleted (but it will be retained for the record in the PDC Green Space). The final decision on whether it is deleted or archived sits with GPRC. **Policy Working Groups** are therefore reminded to look though this manifesto and make changes to their chapter, where they wish to retain policy that resides only in this manifesto.

Appendix B4: 2024 Manifesto

The <u>long version of this manifesto</u> is submitted as part of this report as a record of the version that was campaigned on. Subject to any amendments, PDC will insert this into the Record of Policy Statements.

<u>Appendix B5</u>: Housing and Retrofit policy statement (for autumn 2023 Leaders' speech) Subject to any amendments, PDC will insert this into the Record of Policy Statements.

Appendix B6: Manifesto 2024: Extracted policy statements for approval by RPAG (taken from PDC working copy manifesto v2.2 and "Health extracted for Ann")

Subject to any amendments, PDC will insert this into the Record of Policy Statements via the manifesto.

Appendix C: Interim Policy positions

There are 3 Interim Policy positions, at different stages of approval, but all are subject to amendments, and should appear in section A of the Agenda, as they are required by the constitution to go to conference.

NZG – a relatively old IPP that has been languishing after a first approval at conference, and in need of being finally approved. It may be amended.

SOC Note: this is taken to refer to motion E27 below

Monetary policy – drafted to correct an error in our Economy policy – first time at conference and subject to amendments, after which it will come back, as amended for final approval at the next conference

SOC Note: a link to this IPP and its background paper is given below:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=f8a7f3e8-2b52-4767-bdb6-868d3c832761&hash_sha1=9dc84bb3

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=17b074b1-9c14-409c-8b31-ef15b43f11f3&hash sha1=a550e7b9

Interim policy positions needed for the drafting of the 2024 manifesto - – first time at conference and subject to amendments, after which it will come back, as amended for final approval at the next conference.

SOC Note: a link to this IPP is given below:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=2b9d5c24-2bc4-42d8-80e1-ea8cab58b922&hash sha1=649a215d

A03

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE (ADRC) REPORT

ADRC: Vivien Lichtenstein*, Paul Beswick, Steve Hancox, Eddy Canfor-Dumas, Jan King

MOTION

To accept the following report

Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee report to Conference with its proposed revised standing orders

Introduction

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee is required to have its revised standing orders (attached) approved by Conference. These were agreed by a majority vote of the full committee.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (ADRC) Standing Orders

Revised by the ADRC meeting on 11th April, 2024

- 1) There shall be an Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee as a stand-alone committee of the Green Party. Its aim is to assist members to resolve any disputes occurring between single members or groups of members within local parties, regional parties, sub-groupings and national committees. It will report on its activities to each AGM and Spring Conference.
- 2) The Committee shall consist of seven members; these members will be elected biannually at alternate Green Party Autumn Conferences, with any vacancies filled by co-option or at other Conferences. To help prevent gender imbalance, no more than four members will identify as being of the same gender. Members of ADRC can only stand for re-election a maximum of three times.
- 3) ADRC will select a Coordinator every two years. The Coordinator will be the first point of contact with ADRC, and will be responsible for keeping ADRC's records up to date. Any budget to cover ADRC's expenses will be sent to the Green Party Executive for approval.
- 4) Communication with ADRC is via the < coordinator@drc.greenparty.org.uk> email address. This address may be found in Green Spaces and on the Party members' website. The confidential nature of disputes is such that this email address may not be monitored by non-ADRC members. An overview of ADRC work will be provided at each Green Party AGM and Spring Conference. All ADRC proceedings are confidential and will only be made public in exceptional cases and only with the approval of those involved. Confidentiality will apply to the names, details and

local parties of those involved. In exceptional circumstances legal processes may override the normal rules of confidentiality

- 5) The only power that ADRC has is the power of persuasion. Most dispute resolution will be via online meetings; other methods of dispute resolution may include telephone calls, emails, letters and face to face meetings with mediators and between the aggrieved parties. If at any time either party notifies ADRC in writing that they wish to end the resolution process, then ADRC will cease to be involved. Normally ADRC involvement ends when the two or more parties reach an agreement.
- 6) ADRC involvement can take one of four routes:
- a. Complaints may be referred to ADRC by the Disputes and Complaints Referral Group (DCRG) for dispute resolution in line with the party's complaints process, or provisions in the constitution.
- i) ADRC will pass the dispute back to the referrer if the disputants do not consent or, after due evaluation, in the opinion of ADRC there are no realistic prospects of any resolution, or the referrer recalls the complaints case.
- ii) The complaint may then be referred by the DCRG to the Green Party's Disciplinary Committee.
- b. DCRG may refer the complaint to ADRC if a formal complaint has been made, but the respondent has been judged not to have breached the Green Party Code of Conduct or the Green Party Constitution, on the understanding that this is the only option available to the complainant.
- c. A party member may self-refer a dispute to ADRC.
- d. ADRC can also offer assistance independently of the complaints process if its members hear about a problem and feel that dispute resolution is possible and would improve Party well-being.
- 7) The committee is able to make recommendations to appropriate Green Party bodies for adjustments to processes which may avoid disagreements and disputes arising in future or aid the settling of disputes when they occur. The committee would expect a response within 28 days.
- 8) The committee will seek to develop the conflict resolution skills of all members of the Party by offering training, for example workshops at Conference. ADRC members will also seek to develop their own skills and will take training in conflict resolution if they have not previously done so.
- 9) ADRC will develop guidelines as to what users of its service can expect and ensure appropriate pro-forma templates and case recording are used by all ADRC mediators. These will be available as a resource for use in dispute resolution across the party.
- 10) ADRC will create and maintain a list of approved volunteer mediators it authorises to carry out dispute resolution. This list will aim to reflect the diversity in the Green Party, and support will be offered to ensure it includes people from currently underrepresented groups. Every ADRC-approved mediator will be expected to adhere to the principles outlined in ADRC's Framework for Mediation, which shall be accessible to all Party members via Green Spaces. Failing to comply with the principles outlined in this framework will result in an investigation, potentially resulting in being removed from the list of ADRC mediators and also from the Committee itself, if the mediator in question is also a member of that committee. It may also result in a formal complaint.
- 11) ADRC will also offer support and assistance with the development of dispute resolution capacity in local parties, regional parties, or any national level body. Where dispute resolution can be carried out adequately by others, ADRC will normally consider referring disputants to the appropriate level initially in line with the party's values.

- 12) Where a dispute resolution process elsewhere at a local or regional level has failed and ADRC is then asked for help, ADRC will first evaluate the dispute and make appropriate recommendations.
- 13) As Green Party Regional Council (GPRC) is responsible for keeping under review the general well-being of the Party, ADRC will seek to maintain a close working relationship with GPRC. This relationship should be twofold:
- i) A member of ADRC will attend GPRC meetings, if required, to provide information about ADRC actions and to explore any regional problems.
- ii) ADRC will also invite a member of GPRC to become its GPRC Friend. This friend will be kept informed of ADRC work and meetings. Any friend's expenses will be met from the GPRC budget.
- 14) As the work of ADRC depends on the active participation of all members and also because of the growing demand for the committee's work, a member of ADRC who ceases to participate for a substantial amount of time, for whatever reason, may be asked to resign, following a confirmatory decision by a majority of members of the committee, so another member can be co-opted;
- i) It is anticipated that committee members will be in regular communication with each other and normally any difficulties in participation would be discussed and agreed informally without reference to this standing order.
- ii) In the event of that member not taking any steps to resign or explain why they have been unable to participate in the work of ADRC, and if that member is still unable to continue as an active member within 14 days of the request for an explanation, that member shall no longer be a member of ADRC, and ADRC shall be at liberty to co-opt another person to replace them. Exceptions to this can be made following discussion with ADRC*.
- iii) In addition, an ADRC member who attends committee meetings and responds to communications but does not take on any work of the committee, and/or does not progress the work they have taken responsibility for will also be asked to resign for non-participation by ADRC.
- 15) These Standing Orders may be temporarily amended by a two-thirds vote of all current members of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee at an ADRC meeting, and the changes will stand from their issue to the Standing Orders Committee following this meeting until the next competent Green Party Conference.

^{*}Guidance for ADRC's decision here is that they are confident it will be a temporary period of inactivity and full duties will be resumed in an agreed period if the workload of the committee can accommodate this. Committee members are expected to contact ADRC about any expected inactive period as soon as possible prior to the inactivity.

SECTION B

VOTING PAPERS ON CHAPTERS OF POLICIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

BO1

DISABILITY

Jane Mitchell*, Hannah McLellan, Jane Cotts, Rebekah Roebuck, RoseMary Warrington, Skye Dundas, Felicity Cullen, Ben Foley

SYNOPSIS

N/A

PAPER

SOC Note: in the interests of preventing the Agenda document from becoming excessively large and in order to save on printing costs, SOC here includes a link to a PDF of this DVP:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=36b223a7-ae43-419f-90da-69b2f75f63b6&hash sha1=7075b7c2

This process has been repeated for the background paper, found at the link below:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=658a2432-8c55-486a-b128-460347e753dc&hash_sha1=76d9ef67

B02

EUROPE

Europe PWG: Catherine Rowett*, Richard Wilson, Evelyn Leslie, Francis Sedgemore, Erwin Schaefer, Deolinda Eltringham, Kruna Vukmirovic

SYNOPSIS

In the wake of the UK's withdrawal from membership of the European Union, and consequent upon many recent and less recent developments in the way that European institutions and collaborative organisations are run—including significant changes prompted by the influence of Green Parties across Europe and the urgency of climate action—the GPEW needs to update its policies, across the whole range of topics covered in the Europe chapter. This new voting paper incorporates (with minor revisions) some material passed recently at conferences since Brexit, including a policy statement passed in 2022, and motions passed in Spring and Autumn 2023, but most of the old chapter still remains on the books, including policies that are now forty years out of date.

This voting paper starts from the position we find ourselves in: a UK outside the European Union, but still seeking to cooperate with other countries in Europe across many projects that matter deeply to the Green Party of England and Wales.

The paper covers both relations with the European Union and other issues concerning Europe more generally. It considers a range of mechanisms that the UK can join, whether before or after becoming a member of the EU, and it reflects on how to build a consensus and heal divisions prior to seeking full EU membership. The paper respects the

recent votes by the party to favour a position of rejoining the EU as soon as possible, providing that the political will to enable this to happen is clear on both sides, and providing that the situation prevailing in Europe is such that Green Party priorities would be furthered thereby.

MOTION

SOC Note: in the interests of preventing the Agenda document from becoming excessively large and in order to save on printing costs, SOC here includes a link to a PDF of this DVP, its background and Annex document at the three links below:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=dccf4834-e20c-4fab-a714-df51709976b6&hash_sha1=a4167a88

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=34c6bc1d-fd84-433f-9e43-4404eff18e88&hash_sha1=246cca52

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=a47a4ed7-a69f-486a-bb73-f5a6d3a87ea0&hash_sha1=da44f7d4

SECTION C

ACCREDITED POLICY MOTIONS

CO1

ACCREDITED POLICY MOTIONS

Patrice Laceholder*

SYNOPSIS

[To be determined by the Final Agenda following consultation with Policy Development Committee]

MOTION

[To be determined by the Final Agenda following consultation with Policy Development Committee]

SECTION D

ORGANISATIONAL MOTIONS

D01

ADD CONSTITUTION SECTION ON SPOKESPEOPLE

Peter Price*, Patrick McAllister, Hannah Charlotte Copley, Fiona Davies, Lee Lavery, Roy Davies, Adam Turner, Owain Sutton, Robert Crowston, Emma Garnett, Neil O'Dohrty, Chloe Mosonyi, Cade Hatton, Rowan Page, Darren Yates, Elliot Tong, Alina Baczynska, Jacj Bloom, Matt Rogan, Rob Freeman, Andrew Browne, Thomas Tyler, Rowan Page, Sam Gee

SYNOPSIS

This motion would add a section on Spokespeople to the constitution. This motion would outline the procedure to appoint Spokespeople – aligning with the Green Party Regional Council's (GPRC) motion "Change the Governance Structures of the Party". This motion will also outline Spokespeople's expectations, accountability, etc.

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass

Note also, text which has been struck through in blue is noted as being Out of Order: as creating an ambiguity; and being contrary to the Constitution, since the responsibility for appointing a 'panel of Speakers' (interpreted as referring to spokespeople) is reserved to Green Party Executive by section 7(xi)(c) of the GPEW Constitution

Add a new section to the constitution titled Spokespeople.

The content of this section will state:

- 1. Spokespeople will be the public faces of the Party, responsible for presenting Green Party policy and promoting its campaigns, relevant to their role, to the public on a daily basis.
- The Youth & Student Spokespeople shall be the elected Co-Chairs of the Young Greens of England and Wales, as per
 the constitution and standing orders of the Young Greens of England and Wales, which takes precedence over the
 points listed below.
- 3. Applicants for Spokesperson roles shall have been members of the Party for three complete years, preceding the date of close of applications, and shall be required to complete a standard application form. Applications must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of twenty members of the Party.
- 4. Spokespeople shall be appointed every two years, following the Party Leader and Deputy Leader elections. The Party Leadership Team, consisting of the Green Party Leader (or Co-Leaders), the Deputy Leader (or Deputy Leaders), the Leader (or Co-Leaders) of the Wales Green Party, and the Deputy Leader (or Deputy Leaders), shall nominate applicants to Spokesperson roles by a quorate majority vote. They shall be appointed only subject to ratification by the Green Party Regional Council, who may approve or reject any nomination by a quorate majority vote. Application forms must be submitted within one month of the Party Leader and Deputy Leader election results announcements. Spokespeople must be selected and announced within one month of the application closing date.
- 5. Spokespeople will be accountable to the Party Leadership Team and the Green Party Regional Council; they will be expected to outline their future plans and work to the Party Leadership Team and the Green Party Regional Council.
- 6. Spokespeople, in exercising their duties, will at all times abide by Party policy, the Policies for a Sustainable Society, Philosophical Basis and the Spokesperson Code of Conduct.
- 7. Spokespeople will submit an Annual Report which will be made available on the members' website, with a deadline of four weeks before Autumn Conference.

- 8. In the event of ten per cent of the membership or twenty percent of constituted Local Parties petitioning the Green Party Regional Council, a two-thirds majority of Spokespeople, or a quorate majority of the Party Leadership Team to recall a Spokesperson, a new appointment process for that post only shall be held in which the current post-holder shall not be eligible to apply. The current post-holder(s) will retain their post until the completion of that appointment. The new post-holder(s) shall serve a term lasting as if they had started following the appointment of the previous post-holder(s).
- 9. In the event of the resignation or suspension of a Spokesperson, there will be a new appointment by the Party Leadership Team for that post only. The new post-holder(s) shall serve a term lasting as if they had started following the appointment of the previous post-holder(s).

BACKGROUND

The selection process of Spokespeople is unclear to those not in the Green Party Executive (GPEx). As our Spokespeople are effectively seen as our Party's 'frontbench', the Party Leadership Team are often held responsible for Party Spokespeople by the general public, as is the Party as a whole; there should therefore be a clear selection process and recall process of our Party's Spokespeople. Following previous consultations, GPRC are proposing a motion to change the governance structures of the Party, this motion will align with that motion.

D02

TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

Amanda Onwuemene*, Chris Cooke, Anne Johnson, Tina Rothery, Kefentse Dennis, Alex Geddis, Naomi Graham, Kerri Edmondson, Jim McGinley, Gordon Sharp, Anne Bateman, Pallavi Devulapalli, Sarah Bond, John Coyne, Elinor ni Chathain, Kate Souper, Indar Picton-Howell, Beth Franks, Lawrence Brown, Peter Barnett, AC Baker, Frances Mortimer

SYNOPSIS

Across the Party there is inconsistent understanding and application of the phrase 'Conflict of Interest'. Party governance needs to be of the highest standard.

MOTION

1 Conflict of Interest

1a **As day-to-day direction of the Party is the remit of Green Party Executive (GPEx) (Constitution 7.i), Conference instructs that body, or a committee drawn up by that body (as per Constitution 7.x), to research and approve a definition of 'conflict of interest'. Once agreed, this definition will be distributed to all national, regional and local governance bodies, plus the committees of Special Interest Groups (SPIGs), to be incorporated into their Standing Orders or Constitutions. It will also be published on each Green Space for Party governance bodies and SPIGs.

1b Conference instructs GPEx (or a committee drawn up by that body) to devise a mechanism through which members can raise issues of non-compliance, and to identify or create an appropriate body for investigating any such claims, along with a guide to appropriate sanctions for breaching the requirement to declare any conflict of interest. Details of this mechanism and guide shall be sent out alongside the new definition, both of which shall also be posted in the Green Spaces of all Party governance bodies and SPIGs.

1c Conference instructs GPEx (or a committee drawn up by that body) to provide training to help national, regional,

local and SPIG committees to understand how to implement this approach within their meetings. This may be in the form of a handbook, a recorded session available online in the members Green Spaces, or through live training offered at least twice a year after national elections and conference elections.

2 Best Practice Governance

_The following clauses refer to governance in these national bodies; GPEx, Green Party Regional Council (GPRC), Standing Orders Committee (SOC) and Disciplinary Committee (DC).

2a Conference instructs GPEx to form a committee to examine both the Nolan Principles and guidance on good governance offered to Local Authorities in England and Wales and, within 12 months, produce a Guide to Good Party Governance for adoption by the named national governance bodies.

2b Conference instructs that committee to devise a mechanism through which members can raise issues of non-compliance, and to identify or create an appropriate body for investigating any such claims, along with a guide to appropriate sanctions for breaching the good governance guidelines. Details of this mechanism and guide shall be sent out alongside the new guide, both of which shall also be posted in the Green Spaces of all Party national governance bodies named above. This may be the same body mentioned in paragraph 1b above.

2c Conference instructs the newly formed compliance body to monitor whether national governance bodies are in compliance with their own standing orders with regards to notice of meetings, openness to observers, clear methods for contacting said committees and publication of minutes. Breach of their own standing orders will be considered to inherently breach good governance practice, and be sanctioned using the authority granted in the paragraph above.

DO3

ALLOWING ALL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS TO PROPOSE MOTIONS

Dylan Lewis-Creser*, Avery Withers, Fiona Aviani-Bartram, Finn White, Thomas Atkin-Withers, Robert Callender, Helen Hitchcock, Katie Fenn, Amanda Gardner, Nicole Freeman, Rob Freeman, Elaine Francis, Lauren Jones, Conor Brown, Meg Shepherd-Foster

SYNOPSIS

Under current rules, groups recognised by Equality & Diversity (E&D) committee are not able to propose motions to Conference formally and benefit from reduced co-proposer requirements; this motion would change that.

MOTION

Amend the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference (SOCC), Section B2.2 to read:

- B2.2 Motions and Draft Voting Papers may be proposed and co-proposed for the First Agenda by:
- a) any constituted Local or Regional Party (see also B2.5); or
- b) GPRC or Green Party Executive (see also B2.6); or
- c) a constituted national Committee (see also B2.7); or

- d) a Working Group of the Party approved by Conference under an Enabling Motion or recognised under the byelaws by the Policy Development Committee or Campaigns Committee or their successor body or bodies (see also B2.7); or
- e) Any group recognised as a member of the Equality and Diversity Committee or their successor body or bodies (see also B2.7); or

f) at least twelve co-proposers, one of whom is to be the proposer for the purposes of B1.4 and B1.5. One of the co-proposers must be the member who posted the draft motion to the Pre-Agenda as in A1.3 above.

Amend B2.7 to read:

B2.7 Motions proposed under B2.2(c), B2.2(d) and B2.2(e) by a constituted Committee or Working Group must include co-proposal by the Convenor and three other Party members. Evidence of appropriate discussion and voting must be provided to SOC and PDC in the same way as for proposals from a Local or Regional Party.

D04

ALLOW TWO WOMEN TO BE CO-LEADERS OR DEPUTY LEADERS

Nate Higgins*, Claire Sheppard, Diane Jaques, Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Alex Powell, Chloe Goldsmith, Scott Maun, Raphael Hill, Garry Turner, Alex Nettle, Olli Watkins, Laura Edie, Craig Torano, Mina Cousins, Ekua Bayunu, Anne-Marie Ashton, Finn White, Lorna Russell, Laura Ecott, Andrew Jaswal, Daniel Laycock, Joseph Hudson-Small, Hannah Albrooke, George Salomon, Nathan Wolfrey, Robert Callender, Stefan Liberadzki, James Vessey-Miller, Rob Gardner, Carla Denyer, Natalie Bennett, Nick Hartley, Joe Oteng

SYNOPSIS

The current gender-balancing rules for party leadership are written in a way that prevents multiple women from serving as Co-Leaders or Co-Deputy Leaders. Gender balancing is intended to counteract misogyny in politics, not to hold women back. This motion fixes that.

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Subsection i) of Article 8, Green Party of England and Wales Constitution:

"There shall be a leader and two deputy leaders of the party. The leader shall be a voting member of the Executive and the deputy leaders be treated as a job-share."

Subsection iv) of Article 8, Green Party of England and Wales Constitution:

"The post of deputy leader will be held as a job share with two individuals of a different gender, noting that gender is self-determined.

Two members of a different gender may together stand for the office of Leader in order to hold the post as a jobshare in which case they shall be known as 'Co-Leaders'. In this case a single Deputy, the individual who polls the highest vote, regardless of gender, will be elected. Members standing to be Co-Leaders may not simultaneously be candidates as individuals for either Leader or Deputy Leader."

In Subsection iv) of Article 8, Green Party of England and Wales Constitution:

Replace:

"The post of deputy leader will be held as a job share with two individuals of a different gender, noting that gender is self-determined."

With:

"The post of deputy leader will be held as a job share with two individuals, at least one of whom must be a woman or a non-binary person (noting that gender is self-determined)."

Replace:

"Two members of a different gender may together stand for the office of Leader in order to hold the post as a job share in which case they shall be known as 'Co-Leaders'"

With:

"Two members, of whom at least one must be a woman or a non-binary person, may together stand for the office of Leader in order to hold the post as a job share in which case they shall be known as 'Co-Leaders'.

So that Subsection iv reads:

"The post of deputy leader will be held as a job share with two individuals, at least one of whom must be a woman or a non-binary person (noting that gender is self-determined).

Two members, of whom at least one must be a woman or a non-binary person, may together stand for the office of Leader in order to hold the post as a job share in which case they shall be known as 'Co-Leaders'. In this case a single Deputy, the individual who polls the highest vote, regardless of gender, will be elected. Members standing to be Co-Leaders may not simultaneously be candidates as individuals for either Leader or Deputy Leader."

D05

AMEND PARAGRAPH 14 OF THE CONSTITUTION

PDC: Anne Gayfer*, Ray Harding, Martin Blake, Vix Lowthion, Adrian Spurrell

SYNOPSIS

This motion makes changes to cover practical considerations. There is no provision for replacing Policy Development Committee members who resign during their 2 year term, leaving PDC unable to function without putting pressure on remaining members.

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Conference requests that the following changes should be made to the constitution

Paragraph 14i, *insert a new third sentence*, "If an elected member resigns before the end of their 2 year term, the Policy Development Committee may co-opt into that vacancy on a temporary basis, pending a new member being elected in the Annual Ballot.", so that the paragraph reads,

"There shall be a Green Party Policy Development Committee (hereinafter referred to as the PDC) which shall be convened by the Policy Development Co-ordinator and which shall be responsible for providing for consideration by the Party the best available policy options consistent with the Philosophical Basis. The Policy Development Committee shall include five members elected for a term of 2 years by ballot of the entire membership, usually at the same time as the ballot for the membership of the Executive is held. If an elected member leaves before the end of their 2 year term, the Policy Development Committee may co-opt into that vacancy on a temporary basis, pending a new member being elected in the Annual Ballot. Up to an additional five non-voting members may be co-opted by the elected Committee. This co-option shall take place after an annual skills audit carried out immediately following the election of the elected members, and will take account of:

- the views of Equality and Diversity Committee
- the views of relevant special interest groups within the party
- views of the Association of Green Councillors,
- and should ensure that at least two members of the Committee have direct experience of serving as a principal authority councillor.

This Committee shall be responsible for enabling, co-ordinating and promoting policy formulation for the Green party. The PDC shall submit a written report to each AGM and Spring Conference.

D06

AMEND REMIT OF CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE

Campaigns Committee: Tom Scott*, Laura Ecott, Ben Samuel, Charles Harris, Karen LaBorde, Wella Morris, Lance Symonds

SYNOPSIS

The Extra Electoral Strategy is a supporting document of the constitution. The last version was passed in 1994 when the Party was much smaller. This is a rewrite, renumbering and update to provide a clearer remit for Campaigns Committee that explicitly supports the Political Strategy.

MOTION

Delete title 'Aims of Campaigning' and EES200, EES210, EES220 and EES230

Insert title: 'AIMS OF THE STRATEGY'

Insert:

"To increase awareness of and support for the Green Party and its policies between national elections. This is to include increasing awareness of Green Party policies by members and supporters of the Party.

To activate, mobilise and empower Party members and others to take collective actions to promote and where appropriate implement Green Party policies and policies consistent with the Philosophical Basis.

To be consistent with and support the Political Strategy of the Green Party."

Under the heading 'STRUCTURE'

Delete: EES300

Insert:

"The Green Party will set up a 'Campaigning Community'. This will include working groups that have been formed under the constitution which allows members with interests in common to form a group to pursue campaigns within the structure and strategy of the Party. Such groups with a campaigning focus can be recognised by the Campaigns Committee, which will establish rules for recognition including any required by the constitution.

All groups recognised by the Campaigns Committee will collaborate with other Campaigning Community groups, with the Party's appointed spokespeople and with other working groups that are recognised under the constitution. Campaigns Committee may recognise as part of the Campaigning Community a group that has already been recognised under the constitution by another Committee."

Delete: EES310

Insert:

"This Community will be co-ordinated by a Campaigns Committee. This shall be elected according to the constitution and be chaired by a Campaigns Co-ordinator who will be responsible to the Executive. In the event of there being a Campaigns Co-ordinator vacancy the Executive shall urgently co-opt or appoint a new co-ordinator as required by the constitution or in default of such action a member of the Committee may convene the Committee and the Committee shall then choose a chair who will report on behalf of the Committee to the Executive.

In the event of an elected member resigning or in the event of fewer members than allowed being elected at an election then the Committee may co-opt a new member to the casual vacancy to serve until the next conference and this co-optee shall have a vote as if elected. The Committee may co-opt additional non-voting members, seeking an intersectional Committee where feasible.

Regional Council will be able to nominate a non-voting 'friend' of the Campaigns Coordinator who will be invited to attend Committee meetings so as to facilitate cooperation between GPRC and the Committee."

Insert new title: 'CAMPAIGNING PROCESS'

Retain but renumber EE320

Delete: EES330

Insert:

"The Committee shall submit an annual budget to the Executive. The Executive shall decide the overall campaigning budget available for the Campaigns Committee and Extra-Electoral Campaigns."

Retain but renumber Section EES340

Delete: Section EES350
Insert:
"The Campaigns Committee shall support the Campaigning Community by promoting information, networking, skill-swapping, training and events that encourage effective extra-electoral campaigning."
Delete: EES360
Insert:
"The Committee will maximise the use of online, low-cost, free and shared campaign opportunities."
Delete: EES370
Insert:
"The Committee shall seek to prioritise its work taking into account:
a. Conference resolutions requiring the Party to campaign on an issue;
b. the Party's overall Political Strategy and current political targets;
c. availability of resources;
d. urgency for campaign messaging if the Party's voice needs to be heard in current extra-electoral events;
e. needs of the Campaigning Community.
Insert: Renumbering of the above
So that the full revised document reads:
Extra-Electoral Campaigns Strategy

AIMS OF THE STRATEGY

- 1. To increase awareness of and support for the Green Party and its policies between national elections. This is to include increasing awareness of Green Party policies by members and supporters of the Party.
- 2. To activate, mobilise and empower Party members and others to take collective actions to promote and where appropriate implement Green Party policies and policies consistent with the Philosophical Basis.
- 3. To be consistent with and support the Political Strategy of the Green Party and to increase our vote share and hence our power to implement real change.

STRUCTURE

1. The Green Party will set up a 'Campaigning Community' in parallel to the Policy Community. This will include working groups that have been formed under the constitution which allows members with interests in common to form a group to pursue campaigns within the structure and strategy of the Party. Such groups with a campaigning focus can be recognised by the Campaigns Committee, which will establish rules for recognition including any required by the constitution.

- 2. All groups recognised by the Campaigns Committee will collaborate with other Campaigning Community groups, with the Party's appointed spokespeople and with other working groups that are recognised under the constitution. Campaigns Committee may recognise as part of the Campaigning Community a group that has already been recognised under the constitution by another Committee.
- 3. This Community will be co-ordinated by a Campaigns Committee. This shall be elected according to the constitution and be chaired by the Campaigns Co-ordinator who will be responsible to the Executive. In the event of there being a Campaigns Co-ordinator vacancy the Executive shall urgently co-opt or appoint a new co-ordinator as required by the constitution or in default of such action a member of the Committee may convene the Committee and the Committee shall then choose a chair who will report on behalf of the Committee to the Executive.
- 4. In the event of an elected member resigning or in the event of fewer members than allowed by the constitution being elected at an election then there will be a casual vacancy to which the Committee may co-opt a new member to serve until the next annual general meeting and this co-optee shall have a vote as if elected. The Committee may co-opt additional non-voting members, seeking an intersectional Committee where feasible.
- 5. Regional Council will be able to nominate a non-voting 'friend' of the Campaigns Coordinator who will be invited to attend Committee meetings so as to facilitate cooperation between GPRC and the Committee.

CAMPAIGNING PROCESS

- 1. The Campaigns Committee and Campaigning Community shall co-operate with the Policy Committee and Community in the production of policy material able to be understood by as many people as possible. This material shall be based on, and accord with, agreed policy expressing it in straightforward language and using emotional appeals as appropriate, in support of the Party's campaigning. The arrangements for this co-operation shall be made between the Campaigns Committee and the Policy Committee.
- The Committee shall submit an annual budget to the Executive. The Executive shall decide the overall campaigning budget available for the Campaigns Committee and Extra-Electoral Campaigns. It will be the responsibility of the members of the Campaigning Community to produce well thought-out and costed campaign plans to the Committee.
- 3. The Campaigns Committee shall support the Campaigning Community by promoting information, networking, skill-swapping, training and events that encourage effective extra-electoral campaigning.
- 4. The Committee will maximise the use of online, low-cost, free and shared campaign opportunities.
- 5. The Committee shall seek to prioritise its work taking into account:
 - a. Conference resolutions requiring the Party to campaign on an issue;
 - b. the Party's overall Political Strategy and current political targets;
 - c. availability of resources;
 - d. urgency for campaign messaging if the Party's voice needs to be heard in current extra-electoral events;
 - e. needs of the Campaigning Community.

BACKGROUND

At Autumn Conference 2023, Conference passed a motion (D13) removing the reference to a campaign strategy document of 1995. This was intended as part of an update to Campaigns Committee's remit. However, the second part of this update, which included a revised campaign strategy to serve as terms of reference for the Committee, did not make it onto the agenda. This proposed motion is designed to remedy this deficit.

D07

AMEND STANDING ORDERS FOR PARTY DISCIPLINE

Vivien Lichtenstein*, Rajiv Sinha, Eddy Canfor-Dumas, Sanya Mihaylovic, James Hewitt, Georgina Wright, Larry Sanders, Kathy Hughes, John Coyne, David Farbey, Jan King, Sam Alston, Joshua Alston, Janet Hall, Naranee Ruthra-Rajan

SYNOPSIS

Amend Standing Orders for Party Discipline to enhance understanding of discrimination, to make the system easier to use for both complainants and respondents, and to ensure appeals are more fair to participants. Some of the amendments are as a result of consultation with liberation groups.

MOTION

SOC Note: 'The Committee' mentioned in this motion refers to the Disciplinary Committee

Note also, in the event that motion D10 passes, this motion will be of no consequential effect since the document to which it refers no longer exists, and will fall away

Amend 1.9 which currently reads:

It is a requirement that the Complaints Manager, the Governance Assistant, the members of the Referral Group, the Committee and the Appeals Committee shall receive training in discrimination law, bias and unconscious bias, and Safe Spaces.

Add after Safe Spaces

With regard to issues of discrimination, committees should seek expert guidance or refer to the relevant educational document on the party's Framework for Ethics and Conduct.

So that it reads:

It is a requirement that the Complaints Manager, the Governance Assistant, the members of the Referral Group, the Committee and the Appeals Committee shall receive training in discrimination law, bias and unconscious bias, and Safe Spaces. With regard to issues of discrimination, committees should seek expert guidance or refer to the relevant educational document on the party's Framework for Ethics and Conduct.

(and add a footnote with the link to the Framework for Ethics and Conduct – see below)

Amend 1.11 which currently reads:

Officers and staff of the Party should be aware of their duty of care should they become aware of breaches of the Code of Conduct and associated policies. In this case, they should in the first instance signpost affected members to the complaints policy. Members who require support in making a complaint should be signposted to and approach the Governance Administrator for reasonable support in doing so. Officers and staff will be able to make a complaint even if they have not been personally disadvantaged, though it is good practice to obtain consent from the parties before doing so. Exceptions to this include situations where there is an immediate risk of harm to personal safety or safeguarding policy infringements (see the Safeguarding Policy and below).

Delete "Members who require support in making a complaint should be signposted to and approach the Governance Administrator for reasonable support in doing so."

So that it reads:

Officers and staff of the Party should be aware of their duty of care should they become aware of breaches of the Code of Conduct and associated policies. In this case, they should in the first instance signpost affected members to the complaints policy. Officers and staff will be able to make a complaint even if they have not been personally disadvantaged, though it is good practice to obtain consent from the parties before doing so. Exceptions to this include situations where there is an immediate risk of harm to personal safety or safeguarding policy infringements (see the Safeguarding Policy and below).

Create a new paragraph 1.12

Members who require support in making, or responding to, a complaint should be signposted to and approach the Governance Administrator for reasonable support in doing so. This support should include guidance provided by members with knowledge of the party's complaints process, such as former members of the Referral Group, the Committee, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, or the Appeals Committee.

Minor textual amendment:

Pluralise "file" in 7.4 which currently reads:

On receipt of the appeal statement the Complaints Manager shall refer it to the Appeals Committee for determination as regards to whether the appeal statement constitutes a valid appeal. All of the case file will be forwarded together with the relevant section of the Committee minutes when the decision was made.

Amend 7.5 which currently reads

The Complaints Manager will notify the Chair of the Committee that an appeal has been lodged. The Committee may ask one of its members to attend the Appeal hearing to be available to explain how the decision was made by the Committee and to answer any questions from the Appeals Committee or the Respondent and Complainant.

Add:

If no Committee member attends the hearing but the Committee intends to provide answers to questions raised by the Appeals Committee in advance of the hearing or otherwise provide a submission, they should be sent to the Complaints Manager by 5pm five working days before the date of the Appeal hearing. These questions and answers or submission should be sent to the Appeals Committee, Respondent and Complainant by 5pm three working days before the date of the Appeal hearing.

So that it reads

The Complaints Manager will notify the Chair of the Committee that an appeal has been lodged. The Committee may ask one of its members to attend the Appeal hearing to be available to explain how the decision was made by the Committee and to answer any questions from the Appeals Committee or the Respondent and Complainant. If no Committee member attends the hearing but the Committee intends to provide answers to questions raised by the Appeals Committee in advance of the hearing or

or otherwise provide a submission, they should be sent to the Complaints Manager by 5pm five working days before the date of the Appeal hearing. These questions and answers or submission should be sent to the Appeals Committee, Respondent and Complainant by 5pm three working days before the date of the Appeal hearing.

Amend footnote 2 which currently reads:

Currently the Party CEO
To
Currently the Head of Governance
[assuming that to be the case]

Add a footnote in paragraph 1.9 with a link to the party's Framework for Ethics and Conduct https://members.greenparty.org.uk/framework-for-ethics-and-conduct

Amend footnote 8 which currently reads:

Reasonable adjustments for accessibility may include: wheelchair access, hearing loop, policies and other documents available in large print and Braille, adjustments for travel arrangements

Add after "may include": but are not limited to

Add after "travel arrangements": .These adjustments should be made available at any point during the process.

So that it reads:

Reasonable adjustments for accessibility may include but are not limited to: wheelchair access, hearing loop, policies and other documents available in large print and Braille, adjustments for travel arrangements. These adjustments should be made available at any point during the process.

D08

CHANGE THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES OF THE PARTY

GPRC: Joseph Hudson-Small*, Laura Ecott, Mike McTimoney, Marley King, John Macefield, Nate Higgins, Philip Davies, Zack Polanski

SYNOPSIS

This motion changes the composition of the party's Regional Council and the Executive in line with previous consultations to make them more accountable, democratic (elected proportionally), representative of the party as a whole, and better able to carry out any delegated tasks in order to achieve the party's aims.

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Part One: The Council

This motion calls on Conference to amend Clause 6 of the constitution as follows:

Replace current clause 6(i) which sets out the purpose of GPRC with the following:

- (i) There shall be a Green Party Council (GPC) which shall be responsible for managing the Party's culture, wellbeing, and governance; creating the political strategy; and setting the political direction of the Party between conferences.
- (ii) It will be responsible for supporting and advising the Green Party Executive and holding the Executive to account for the delivery of the political strategy.

Retain current clause 6(ii) regarding policy statements, renumbering to 6(iii).

Retain current clause 6(iii) regarding democratic procedures, renumbering to 6(iv).

Replace current clause 6(iv) regarding elections by region with the following, now numbered 6(v) which increases the size of the Council to better reflect its responsibilities and introduces proportional representation:

The Council shall consist of 36 ordinary members. Each council member's term will be for three years and 12 people will ordinarily be elected every year, using a single transferable vote (STV) process, as part of the annual ballot. Any member who has been a member for over two years will be eligible to stand.

There shall be a cap on representation from each region such that no further candidates from a given region will be elected if their election would mean that more than one quarter of the total ordinary council members would be from any one region.

Notwithstanding the regional cap, if following the Annual Ballot the results would produce a Council with fewer than 4 people of colour serving as ordinary or additional members, then up to two additional seats will be created and filled by the top placing people of colour who were not elected. Note that identification as a person of colour is self-determined, and that any vacancies in additional member posts are not filled as though they were casual vacancies.

Insert clause 6(vi):

For the purpose of term limits as set out in Section 5 Clause 20, terms will be considered non-consecutive and will not be counted towards these limits if they are at least 11 months apart or where a member was first elected to a partial term to fill a vacancy.

Insert clause 6(vii):

The Leadership Team i.e. the Green Party Leader (or Co-Leaders), the Deputy Leader (or Deputy Leaders), the Leader (or Co-Leaders) of the Wales Green Party, and the Deputy Leader (or Deputy Leaders) of the Wales Green Party will be voting members of the council. Where a position is a job-share, the role will have a single vote. The two Young Greens Co-Chairs will be voting members of the Council and will have one vote each. The Chair and Treasurer of the Executive, plus the CEO and the convenors or co-convenors of the International Committee and the Trade Union Liaison Committee will be non-voting members of the Council."

Replace current clause 6(v) regarding casual vacancies with the following, now numbered 6(viii):

Casual vacancies on the Council shall be filled at the next Annual Ballot, for the length of the original term of the casual vacancy they are filling. The Casual vacancies will be elected alongside the full term vacancies using STV over three consecutive selections.

The first selection will be for 12 seats plus the total number of one and two year casual vacancies, and will be drawn from all candidates in the election.

The second selection will be for 12 seats plus the number of 2 year casual vacancies, and will only be drawn from candidates selected in the first selection. Those unsuccessful in the second round are selected as 1 year casual vacancy role holders.

The third selection will be for 12 seats, and candidates drawn only from those successful in the second selection. Those unsuccessful in the third selection will be selected as 2 year casual vacancy role holders. Those successful in the third selection will be selected as three year term role holders.

Retain current clause 6(vi) regarding meeting frequency, now numbered 6(ix).

Retain current clause 6(vii) regarding quoracy, now numbered 6(x).

Replace current clause 6(viii) regarding co-chairs with the following, now numbered 6(xi) which is more inclusive:

Every year at its AGM the Council shall elect by secret ballot from within its number two co-chairs, at least one of whom must be a woman or a non-binary person (noting that gender is self determined), and it shall elect a secretary and a treasurer.

Retain current clause 6(ix) regarding recall of Council members, now numbered 6(xii).

Retain current clause 6(x) regarding recall of the Executive, now numbered 6(xiii).

Retain current clause 6(xi) regarding recall of the Leadership, now numbered 6(xiv).

Retain current clause 6(xii) regarding appeals to recall, now numbered 6(xv).

Replace current clause 6(xiii) regarding reports at meetings with the following, now numbered 6(xvi) which allows for greater accountability:

The Council may request with reasonable notice any member of the Green Party Executive, regional coordinator or the chair(s) of any recognised affiliated group to attend one of its meetings to report on their specific area of responsibility.

Those requested to attend may send another officer in their place.

Retain current clause 6(xiv) regarding records of business, now numbered 6(xvii).

Insert clause 6(xviii):

The Council will be run according to its Standing Orders which may be amended by a two thirds majority of those Council members voting.

Insert clause 6(xix):

The Appeals committee of the Council will be elected according to the Standing Orders of the Council. The committee will operate according the Standing Orders for Party Discipline.

Insert clause 6(xx) which allows workload to be better shared and delegated:

Where a body requires or otherwise permits one or more members of the Green Party Council to sit ex officio on the body either as voting members or otherwise, the members shall be chosen by the Council from among its own membership in accordance with its own standing orders, without respect to any others (i.e. if the co-chairs of the Council are referenced in the standing orders of another body, the Council may choose another of its members to act in their place).

Insert clause 6(xxi), moved from the executive section

xxi) The Party Leadership Team (see 6.vii) shall nominate persons to Spokesperson roles who shall each be responsible for covering a designated area of policy. They shall be appointed only subject to ratification by the Green Party Council, who may approve or reject any nomination. The Council may recall any appointed Spokesperson except the Young Greens Co-Chairs who shall be the Youth and Students Spokespeople.

And amend Clause 9 of the Constitution (Annual Ballot) as follows:

Add to Existing Clause 9) 1), a new part (f) Members of The Council;

And renumber as needed (including references). Delete the term "Regional Council" throughout Clause 6 and elsewhere in the Constitution and replace it with "Council" as required.

Part Two: The Executive

This motion calls on conference to amend Clause 7 of the constitution by deleting the existing Clause 7 and replacing it with the following:

GREEN PARTY EXECUTIVE

- i) There shall be a Green Party Executive (hereinafter referred to as the Party Executive or GPEx) which shall be responsible for the operation of and day-to-day direction of the Party and for executing the political strategy. Certain duties and responsibilities are reserved to other Party bodies specified in this Constitution, in particular Conference, Standing Orders Committee, Green Party Council, Disciplinary Committee, Appeals Committee and Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. The authority of the Executive does not extend over those reserved duties and responsibilities.
- ii) The Leadership Team (see 6.vii) will be voting members of the Executive. Where a position is a job-share, the role will have a single vote. The two Young Greens Co-Chairs will be voting members of the Executive and will have one vote each. The CEO will be a non-voting member of the Executive.

The following additional voting members are elected to serve for two years:

- a) Chair;
- b) Treasurer;
- c) Seven ordinary members.
- iii) Elections for the GPEx Chair, Treasurer and Ordinary member posts shall be by a ballot of all members of the party with voting included within the Annual Ballot. The Chair and Treasurer shall be elected in one year in individual ballots by instant run off, at the same time as the Leader(s) plus Deputy Leader(s), and the ordinary members in the next year by a seven-seat single transferable vote, so that the two-year terms of the two groups are staggered.
- iv) Subject to the collective responsibility of the Executive set out in 7 i), 7 xvi) and elsewhere in section 7 or other clauses of the constitution, within one month of the election of the Ordinary Members, GPEx will set out what their areas of responsibility are such that between the Chair, Treasurer and Ordinary Members, GPEx takes accountability for all sub-committees of GPEx and their individual accountabilities are aligned to the Party's structures and staff responsibilities. This will be done using an appropriate methodology, to ensure an acceptable workload and that each Party Executive's skills are matches to their portfolio.
- v) Procedures for the election of Leader and Deputy Leader(s) or Co-Leaders of the Green Party and their duties and responsibilities are outlined in Section 8 of this Constitution.
- vi) Candidates for the GPEx Chair, Treasurer and Ordinary Member positions shall have been a member of the Party for the two complete years preceding the date of close of nominations, and shall be required to complete a standard application form. Nominations of candidates must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of ten members of the Green Party of England and Wales. Or, if they have been a member for a minimum of one complete year preceding the date of close of nominations, their nomination must be supported by a majority of the Green Party Council's members in attendance at a quorate official meeting of that body.

SOC Note: The text which has been struck through in blue below was found to be Out of Order since it creates an ambiguity within the motion

- vii) Members of the Party may be nominated for no more than one GPEx post at any one time, and no member may hold more than one post on the Party Executive at any one time. Members of the Party Executive may not hold any other elected office in the Party at national level. Members of the Party may be nominated for both Leader and Deputy Leader(s).
- viii) The Party Executive shall meet as necessary and at least once every two months.

- ix) A quorum of the Party Executive shall comprise a majority of the total membership eligible to vote.
- x) The Party Executive may from time to time create such sub-committees as it considers necessary for the efficient conduct of its business and shall determine their terms of reference, powers, duration and composition at least annually, retaining responsibility for the conduct of such sub-committees and accounting for the conduct of those sub-committees to the Annual Conference. Any such sub-committee shall include at least one member of the Council.
- xi) The Party Executive shall appoint the National Election Agent and in addition may create such posts as it considers necessary.
- xii) The Executive shall elect from among its elected members a deputy chair, to assist the chair in their duties, and to act in the role of the chair at any time when the chair is unable to do so. Such elections are to take place at least annually and by the end of November each year.
- xiii) By a two-thirds majority of its membership eligible to vote, the Party Executive may suspend from office any member of the Party Executive, if there is evidence of sustained conduct which in the opinion of the Party Executive is against the interests of the Party, subject to any decision of the Council under Clause 6(xii) and subject to the right of such a member to appeal.
- xiv) In the event of 20% of constituted Local Parties petitioning the Council to recall the GPEx Chair, Treasurer or Ordinary Member, such a member shall be under suspension until a new ballot has been held for that post at a date to be determined by the Council.
- xv) In the event of a casual vacancy (i.e. one not arising in the normal electoral cycle) for a GPEx Chair, Treasurer or Ordinary Member position a replacement shall be appointed in an acting capacity by the Party Executive until the next scheduled ballot is held. An acting replacement will not have voting rights
- xvi) The responsibilities of the Party Executive shall include the following at the national level:
- a) to implement the decisions of the Annual Conference;
- b) to ensure the proper financial oversight and administration of the Party and fundraising for its operations;
- c) to act as the Green Party's employer of Green Party staff;
- d) to keep records of its business, which it shall provide to the Council and make available to the membership of the Party;
- e) to present a full written report on its activities and on the financial state of the Party to the Annual General Meeting;
- f) to present to the Annual General Meeting a plan for intended activities for the next 12 months
- xvii) The Chair, and other Executive members that the Council may from time to time invite shall attend every meeting of the Council to report on the work of the Party Executive, without prejudice to Clause 6 (xiii).

And amend Clause 9 of the Constitution (Annual Ballot) as follows:

Amend existing Clause 9) 1) b) to read: (b) GPEx Chair, Treasurer, and Ordinary Members;

Part Three: Changes to Committees

Rename Section 15 CAMPAIGNING to 15 CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE

Amend Clause 15 (Campaigning), to make consistent the relationship with GPEx in light of the changes made to GPEx above, so it reads:

- i. There shall be a Green Party Campaigns sub-committee (hereafter called the Campaigns Committee) which shall be convened by a specified member of GPEx as set out in 7 iv, and shall be responsible for organising campaigning, consistent with the Objects and Aims set out in part 3.
- ii. The Campaigns Committee shall include five members elected at the Annual Conference, with vacancies to be filled by election, or by co-option to be ratified at an intervening conference.
- iii. The role of the Campaigns Committee shall be to support and enhance agreed messaging and lobbying related to parliamentary and local council campaigns designed to change the law and policies in pursuit of the Political Strategy; and to give local Green Parties and individual members opportunities and resources to take part in non-electoral campaigns on issues of local and national importance.
- iv. The Campaigns Committee shall provide a report to each Annual General Meeting.
- v. The Campaigns Committee is a sub-committee of GPEx.

Amend Clause 16 International Committee, to make it a working group of the Council consistent with the Council leading on political issues, and to remove repetition in the current constitution and to require a report to be made annually at conference so it reads:

16 INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

- i. There shall be a Green Party International working group (hereafter called the International Committee) which shall be convened by a convenor or two co-convenors elected by the members of the committee.
- ii. The International Committee shall include six members elected at Annual Conference with vacancies filled by election or by co-option to be ratified at an intervening conference.
- iii. The role of the International Committee shall be to support the work of the Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW) and organise the International work of the party. This includes, among other things, selecting delegates and / or representatives to meetings of fellow Green parties and groupings of Green parties worldwide.
- iv. The International Committee shall provide a report to each Annual General Meeting.
- v. The International Committee is a committee of the Council.

Add new Clause 17, renumbering other clauses in the constitution as needed, to create a Trade Union Liaison Committee to coordinate the Party's relationship with the trade union movement and other workers' organisations:

17 TRADE UNION LIAISON COMMITTEE

- I. There shall be a Green Party Trade Union Liaison working group (hereafter called the Trade Union Liaison Committee) which shall be convened by a convenor or two co-convenors elected by the members of the committee.
- II. The Trade Union Liaison Committee shall include five members elected at Annual Conference with vacancies filled by election or by co-option to be ratified at an intervening conference.
- III. The role of the Trade Union Liaison Committee shall be to support the work of GPEW and coordinate and strengthen the Party's work with the trade union movement and other workers' organisations.
- IV. The Trade Union Liaison Committee shall provide a report to each Annual General Meeting.
- V. The Trade Union Liaison Committee is a committee of the Council.

Amend Clause 20 Equalities and Diversity Committee, to make consistent the relationship with GPEx in light of the changes made to GPEx above, so it reads:

20 EQUALITY EQUITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EEDI) COMMITTEE

- i. There shall be a Green Party Equalities Equity Diversity and Inclusion sub-committee (hereafter called the EEDI Committee) which shall be convened by a specified member of GPEx as set out in 7 iv.
- ii. The EEDI Committee shall include five members elected by Annual Conference with vacancies filled by election or by co- option to be ratified at an intervening conference.
- iii. The EEDI Committee shall also include a representative of each group that is recognised as a Members Working Group by the EEDI Committee.
- iv. The EEDI Committee shall provide a report to each Annual Conference.
- v. The role of the EEDI Committee shall be to support the work of GPEx to improve Equalities Equity Diversity and Inclusion within the Green Party.

And renumber as needed (including references). Delete the term "Regional Council" throughout Clause 7 and elsewhere in the Constitution and replace it with "Council" as required.

Part Four: Transition

Council

Following the passage of this motion we will transition to the new format of the Council as follows: At the first Annual Ballot after the passage of this motion, exactly 12 Council seats shall be up for election. At all future Annual Ballots, 12 seats shall ordinarily be up for election for three year terms in addition to any elections to vacancies as set out above.

At the conclusion of the first Annual Ballot after the passage of this motion, any current members of the Regional Council will transition to become full voting members of the Council, with their terms expiring in line with their existing mandate. If any such Regional Councillor either leaves the Council or is elected to the Council in their own right, the Region which elected them as a Regional Councillor shall not replace them.

Executive

Following the passage of this motion we will transition to the new format of Executive as follows: At the first Annual Ballot held in an even numbered year after the passage of this motion, the terms of all incumbent members of the Executive will expire – and the Chair and Treasurer of the Executive will be elected to ordinary two year terms. This shall also apply to the Leader and Deputy leader roles, which shall be elected in the same year as the Chair and Treasurer per section 7 above. The seven ordinary members shall be elected first for a term of only one year, and at any subsequent Annual Ballot in an odd numbered year shall be elected to an ordinary term of two years.

Part Five: Incorporation

Conference instructs the Council through its Party Structures Working Group to bring further motions to enable the incorporation of the Party or to make further constitutional reforms to the structure of the Party, which will be heard as reports at Conference.

D09

CHANGE THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

GPRC: Joseph Hudson-Small*, Laura Ecott, Mike McTimoney, Marley King, John Macefield, Adam Turner

SYNOPSIS

This motion updates, modernises, and simplifies the party's code of conduct in line with previous consultations at conference and taking into account the views of members and staff involved in the disputes and complaints process.

MOTION

Replace the Code of Conduct with the following:

Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Founding Principles
- 3 Expectations

General Conduct
Political Opponents
Internal Democracy
Finance and Regulation
Using the Complaints System
Agents of the Party

- 4 Oversight
- 5 Complaints Procedure
- 6 Appended Documents

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to set out standards of behaviour and conduct for all Green Party members and volunteers. As a member of or volunteer for the Green Party, we agree to meet these expectations and act accordingly when representing the Green Party.
- 1.2 Breaches of Section 3 (Expectations) of this Members' Code of Conduct (MCC) may be considered grounds for disciplinary action following a complaint which will be handled using the Party's agreed disputes and complaints process (see Section 5) or may be grounds to make use of one of the other suitable party procedures which do not require a formal disciplinary complaint to be registered.

Such other procedures include (but are not necessarily limited to): the Speaking Out policy, Safeguarding policy, a no-confidence, recall, or deselection procedure, or the Regional Council's powers to regulate party membership. These procedures are defined in other organisational documents and may have other triggers not set out in this Code.

1.3 This Members' Code of Conduct is effective from the moment of its adoption.

Any breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct shall be assessed against the version of the Code of Conduct effective at the time of conduct in question, except where a pattern of behaviour takes place over a period of time in which multiple versions of the Code were in effect – in which case the latest version at the time of the submission of the complaint will normally be considered.

2.0 Founding Principles

These principles are drawn from the Party's Philosophical Basis (PB) and Core Values (CV) and underpin the expectations set out in Section 3.

We affirm that:

- 2.1 An individual has the right to freedom of thought and self-expression, so far as this does not undermine our philosophical basis or core values. (PB401)
- 2.2 An individual has the right to freedom of behaviour provided such action does not harm others. (PB403)
- 2.3 An individual must take responsibility for the consequences of their own actions.
- 2.4 An individual has a right to non-violent action. (PB442 and PB501)
- 2.5 Members have a duty to help make the Green party an organisation in which people feel included, are safe, encouraged to contribute and welcomed regardless of background.
- 2.6 Members who believe they have observed breaches of Section 3 have a duty to report this using the complaints procedure (see Section 5) or another relevant process.

3.0 Expectations

General Conduct

- 3.1 We must not unlawfully discriminate against anyone on the basis of a protected characteristic that a person may have.
- 3.2 We must not bully or harass anyone contrary to *Appendix A* of this Code of Conduct.
- 3.3 We must not engage in violent conduct against other party members, members of staff, or members of the public.
- 3.4 We must not lie to other party members or members of staff.
- 3.5 We must not spread unfounded rumours about other party members or members of staff.
- 3.6 We must not insult or act disrespectfully towards other party members or members of staff but it is not a breach of this clause to hold others to account, criticise the conduct of others within reason, or accuse others of wrongdoing (including but not limited to breaches of this Members' Code of Conduct).
- 3.7 We must not engage in conduct which brings the Green Party into disrepute or is likely to do so, and when standing for public office we must disclose anything in our history that is likely to do so.
- 3.8 We must not publicly undermine or contradict the *Green Party's Core Values*.
- 3.9 We must conduct ourselves in a way that enables the Green Party to be a space that is as safe or safer than society as a whole. Our conduct towards members and staff should be: tolerant, considerate, respectful, and civil.
- 3.10 We must all take accusations of wrongdoing seriously and those in positions of responsibility must work to protect victims of discriminatory, oppressive, or abusive behaviour and provide an environment free of such conduct.

Political Opponents

- 3.11 We must not be members of another UK political party, except other 'sister' Green Parties based in the UK outside of England and Wales.
- 3.12 We must not stand for election against a properly selected Green Party candidate or campaign for a person standing against a properly selected Green Party candidate, nor act as their agent.

Internal Democracy

- 3.13 We must follow and observe all properly authorised organisational policies and procedures, including the Constitution of the Green Party and its subordinate documents.
- 3.14 We must respect the properly authorised autonomy and democratic decision making of constituent parts of the Green Party.
- 3.15 We must not improperly disrupt Green Party meetings or procedures.
- 3.16 We must not abuse any actual or perceived position of power, influence, responsibility, or trust that we may have over other party members or members of staff.
- 3.17 We must not blackmail, coerce, or improperly influence other party members or members of staff in a way which interferes with internal or external democratic decision-making.
- 3.18 We must respect confidentiality when it has been agreed or imposed using a properly authorised procedure, and any challenges to confidentiality must be made using appropriate channels. Confidentiality does not affect a member's rights as set out in the party's Speaking Out (formerly: Whistleblowing) policy.
- 3.19 We must comply with any disciplinary sanctions or any other judgements made by the Green Party against us or other party members using properly authorised procedures.

Finance and Regulation

- 3.20 We must not spend or commit Green Party funds without having the proper authority to do so.
- 3.21 We must not approve expenditure of Green Party funds which puts the party or any part of it at risk of insolvency.
- 3.22 We must meet the legal obligations of the Green Party, including keeping adequate records of our decisions or communications, and we must produce them or make them available in line with any properly authorised procedures.
- 3.23 We must abide by all relevant and current electoral law(s).

Using the Complaints System

- 3.24 Members have a duty to report any wrongdoing they have witnessed and must do so using the disputes and complaints process (see Section 5) or another suitable and properly authorised procedure (see Clause 1.2).
- 3.25 We must not abuse the disputes and complaints process by submitting complaints contrary to the *UPVAM Guidance*.

SOC Note: the acronym 'UPVAM' as used here and in motion D10 stands for 'Unreasonable, Persistent, Vexatious, Abusive or Malicious'.

3.26 We must consider recusing ourselves from decisions where we may have a conflict of interest, as set out in the *quidance on recusal*.

Agents of the Party

- 3.27 Members in a position of responsibility organising meetings or activities have a duty of care to ensure attendees are not put in harm's way as a result of negligence.
- 3.28 When we speak on behalf of the Green Party (including but not limited to: Leadership, Spokespeople, candidates for political office, public office holders, and internal office holders), if we are expressing a view differing from Green Party policy then we must ensure we also state Green Party policy and make clear that our views are not Green Party policy.
- 3.29 Members who hold internal or public office must follow the Seven Principles of Public Life (known as the Nolan Principles) when acting in an official capacity:
 - 3.29.1 Selflessness Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.
 - 3.29.2 Integrity Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.
 - 3.29.3 Objectivity Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.
 - 3.29.4 Accountability Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.
 - 3.29.5 Openness Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.
 - 3.29.6 Honesty Holders of public office should be truthful.
 - 3.29.7 Leadership Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and treat others with respect. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

4.0 Oversight

This document is to be kept under review by a group known as the Code of Conduct Oversight Body, consisting of: the Co-Chairs of Green Party Regional Council (GPRC), the Chair of Disciplinary Committee (DC), the Coordinator of the Alternative Disputes Resolution Committee (ADRC), and the Chair of the Green Party Executive (GPEx), or their deputies or substitutes.

4.1 Updating – Standing Orders Committee (SOC) may make simple updates or corrections to this Code as to numbering, terminology, names of groups, references to other procedures or documents as they change – and should do so promptly so as to keep this document relevant, up to date, and fit for purpose.

- 4.2 Revision The Code of Conduct Oversight Body may propose revisions to this document on which it has reached consensus after consultation with relevant staff. If there is consensus, the changes will take effect immediately without requirement for further ratification. Revisions for which there is a majority in favour but not consensus are to be ratified via inclusion in a report from the oversight body to the next Conference. Subject to a majority Conference vote in favour of the report, any revision shall take immediate effect.
- 4.3 Appending documents From time to time a body with the competent authority to do so may produce a supplementary organisational document and propose that it be appended to this Members' Code of Conduct. The proposal must specify exactly which clauses or parts of clauses are to be appended, which has the effect of making them grounds for disciplinary action. A consensus decision of the oversight body is sufficient to bring the changes into effect, otherwise a change to an appendix for which there is a majority in favour but not a consensus shall be brought to the next Conference for ratification via a report, as set out in the above clause. Appendices may be changed or removed under this provision.
- 4.4 No appended document may nullify or be in conflict with any clause in this Members' Code of Conduct, the GPEW Constitution, or the Standing Orders for Party Discipline. A document proposed to be appended to this Code under Clause 4.3 also may not be in conflict with or nullify a document that is already appended to it.

5.0 Complaints Procedure

The complaints procedure is outlined in the Standing Orders for Party Discipline (SOPD). This is available on the members website alongside supporting documentation and guidance.

The following documents support the disputes and complaints process:

- GPRC Guidance on recusal
- GPRC Guidance on anonymity
- GPRC Guidance and procedure on UPVAM (Unreasonable, Persistent, Malicious, and Vexatious Complaints)

Please note that this list may be incomplete.

The latest supporting documents can be found on the members website.

6.0 Appended Documents

Each appended document is to be listed here, giving precise details of: which the appended clauses are; the date of appendance; the means of or authority for appendance; and the date or version number of the appended document.

A breach of any of the following appended documents constitutes a breach of this Members' Code of Conduct (MCC) for disciplinary purposes.

The following documents or sections of documents are appended to the MCC:

Appendix A:

The Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy

Clauses Appended: Full Document Appendance Date: 15/04/2015

Appended By: Spring Conference 2015

Oversight Body: GPEx

Latest Version: Version 1, Dated 15/04/2015

Members should also be familiar with the guidance available in the Framework for Ethics and Conduct, which provides additional context relevant to the Members' Code of Conduct and its appendices and guide its interpretation and application:

- GPRC Guidance on Bringing the Party into Disrepute
- All Party Political Group on British Muslims Definition of Islamophobia
 and GPRC Approved Addendum to APPG Definition of Islamophobia
- Antisemitism: A Guidance
- GPRC Guidance to Identify Queerphobia

Please note that this list may be incomplete.

The latest supporting documents can be found on the members website.

D10

CHANGE THE STANDING ORDERS FOR PARTY DISCIPLINE

GPRC: Joseph Hudson-Small*, Laura Ecott, Mike McTimoney, Marley King, John Macefield, Adam Turner,

SYNOPSIS

This motion amends the party's disputes and complaints process to make it more transparent, humane, accountable, and in line with our values. These changes were recommended by conference workshops, workings groups reviewing different elements, staff familiar with the Disputes and Complaints process, and industry best practice.

MOTION

SOC Note: The part of this motion dealing with the Constitution will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Note also, if this motion is passed then motion D07 falls away

Constitution:

REPLACE clauses 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 4.13, 4.14 with 4.10 as follows:

4.10 Disputes and Complaints within the Green Party will be dealt with in accordance with the Standing Orders for Party Discipline (SOPD) and the subordinate Standing Orders and Procedures of the Disciplinary Committee (SOPDC) where applicable.

There shall be a Disputes and Complaints Referral Group (DCRG), Disciplinary Committee (DC), and Appeals Committee which shall operate according to the Standing Orders for Party Discipline and whose membership shall be defined in the same, except for the Appeals committee whose membership shall be defined in the standing orders of the Regional Council.

Note: at present -

- Clause 4.10 defines Disciplinary Committee,
- Clause 4.11 concerns the grounds of a complaint,
- Clause 4.12 defines the Disputes and Complaints Referral Group,
- Clause 4.13 concerns the grounds for appeal,
- Clause 4.14 sets out that there shall be Standing Orders for Party Discipline.

RENUMBER existing clause 4.15 as 4.11

Transition:

Upon passage of this motion, all existing members of the Disciplinary committee shall remain in post until the next annual ballot. At the first annual ballot after the passage of this motion, 20 members will be elected such that 10 are elected to an ordinary 2 year term, and another 10 are elected to a shortened 1 year term such that the terms become staggered as set out in SOPD 1.1.1 (see below).

Following the passage of this motion, the Disciplinary Committee shall be responsible for creating an initial version of the Standing Orders and Procedures of the Disciplinary Committee (SOPDC), which it may agree by consensus or otherwise by simple majority.

Similarly following the passage of this motion, any and all existing complaints in the system shall be resumed and handled using the updated Standing Orders for Party Discipline from the next stage onwards, so as not to disadvantage any participant. Any complaints which are on hold shall be re-considered by DCRG. Cases currently under investigation (or that were not investigated per then-clause 4.2) shall require a charging document to be produced, per SOPD 5.5.

Standing Orders for Party Discipline:

REPLACE the Standing Orders for Party Discipline with the following (see next page), which is based on:

- The NFSWG (No Fault Suspension Working Group) proposals, including consultation with the membership,
 and
- Work by the DCWG (Disputes and Complaints Working Group), which includes GPRC and DC

Standing Orders for Party Discipline (SOPD)

1 Bodies and Composition

Disciplinary Committee

- 1.1 There shall be a Disciplinary Committee (DC) responsible for hearing all disputes and complaints not referred elsewhere by DCRG. They shall act as judges in the cases presented to them.
 - 1.1.1 The membership shall be 20 members elected to 2 year terms, half of whom shall be elected at each Annual Ballot such that the terms are staggered.
 - 1.1.2 Should a vacancy arise, the remaining members of DC may appoint a party member to complete that term in accordance with their standing orders.
 - 1.1.3 The Disciplinary Committee shall elect a Chair and two Deputy Chairs at least annually.
 - 1.1.4 The Disciplinary Committee and any Investigators appointed by them shall operate according to these standing orders for party discipline (SOPD), the standing orders and procedures of the disciplinary committee (SOPDC), and anything set out in the appendices to either of them.

<u>Investigators</u>

- 1.2 There shall be a pool of Investigators comprised of no more than 20 persons appointed by DC (in consultation with recognised groups of common interest as may be set out in SOPDC) who shall be responsible for investigating disciplinary cases and presenting those cases at hearings.
 - 1.2.1 Investigators shall each serve two year terms, and may not be members of GPRC, SOC, or GPEx. No more than 6 Investigators may be members of DC at any one time.
 - 1.2.2 Should a vacancy arise within the pool of Investigators, DC may appoint another person who shall then serve for a two year term of their own.
 - 1.2.3 The Investigators are responsible to the Disciplinary Committee and will operate according to their role as set out in these standing orders for party discipline (SOPD), the standing orders and procedures of the disciplinary committee (SOPDC), and anything set out in the appendices to either of them.

They are not voting members of the Disciplinary Committee.

1.2.4 Investigators are not required to be members of the party, provided that they have received suitable training or other appropriate qualification.

Referral Group

- 1.3 There shall be a Disputes and Complaints Referral Group (DCRG) comprised of no more than 5 members responsible for referring complaints. Three shall be the Chair and two Deputy Chairs of DC, and two shall be chosen by the Regional Council from amongst their number in accordance with their standing orders.
 - 1.3.1 Decisions of DCRG shall be by consensus or failing that, by a simple majority. The quoracy shall be 3.
 - 1.3.2 DCRG shall ordinarily be chaired by the Chair of DC.

Appeals Committee

1.4 There shall be an Appeals Committee comprised of no more than 5 members responsible for hearing appeals.

The membership shall be chosen by the Regional Council from amongst their number in accordance with their standing orders.

- 1.4.1 Decisions of the Appeals Committee shall be by simple majority. The quoracy shall be 3.
- 1.4.2 The Appeals Committee shall elect a Chair or two Co-Chairs at least annually.

Other Bodies or Persons

- 1.5 There is an on-call committee of the Regional Council, which operates according to its standing orders, and the Regional Council itself as set out in the Constitution.
- 1.6 There is a Complaints Manager role (performed by one or more members of staff) who facilitate certain parts of the disputes and complaints process, including communications between members party to a complaint and the bodies set out above.

2 Eligibility

- 2.1 Members shall be eligible to serve on the Disciplinary Committee provided that they have held continuous membership for at least one year.
- 2.2 Members may not simultaneously be a member of DC and any of the following: GPEx, GPRC, or SOC.
- 2.3 Members of the Disciplinary Committee and any Investigators shall be required to sign a declaration that they shall faithfully perform their responsibilities in accordance with these standing orders and the appendices, the party's code of conduct, our core values, any guidance found within the framework of ethics and conduct, and any other requirements set out by governing bodies such as data protection and privacy policies and that they shall take care not to publicly undermine the above directly or indirectly.
- 2.4 Investigators or members of DC shall not take part in the above roles until the above declaration has been signed and entered into the party's records.
- 2.5 Members of the above committees shall undergo training as directed by the Regional Council and facilitated by staff as appropriate (see appendices).

- 2.6 Investigators or members of DC may be removed or temporarily suspended from their post by the Regional Council in accordance with their standing orders.
- 2.7 Investigators or members of DC who have been removed from their post or who have otherwise left their post before the natural end of their term may be barred from holding either post for a period of up to five years by the Regional Council in accordance with their standing orders, provided that this is decided within three months of the vacancy.

3 Complaints Procedure

- 3.1 Members who have experienced or witnessed wrongdoing may submit a complaint to the party's Complaints Manager, who shall in turn present the complaint to DCRG for their consideration (ideally within one calendar week).
- 3.2 The Complaints Manager or another delegated member of staff should:
 - Be a liaison with the person submitting a complaint.
 - Offer to speak with the complainant to discuss and assist with finalising their complaint so that it may be properly submitted.
 - Be responsible for notifying a complainant once their complaint has been properly submitted and received.
 - Support participants with any reasonable adjustments, including asking for any times where they will be unable to participate in a hearing, if they know this in advance.
- 3.3 Members will <u>not</u> be required to indicate which specific rules have been broken, though the form will provide an opportunity for them to do so, should they feel comfortable doing so. When a member has indicated which rules they believe have been broken, this shall only be to advise the assigned Investigators, not to bind them.
- 3.4 Members who submit complaints are encouraged to provide as much detail and evidence as they are reasonably able to.
- 3.5 The Regional Council shall produce a complaint form (including accessible versions as required) and the party shall make the complaint form(s) available on the members website.
- 3.6 The complaint form(s) shall ask if the member considers the conduct a breach of: the constitution, the code of conduct, or an earlier sanction or temporary suspension (though this is optional per 3.3).
- 3.7 If one or more (or all) parties to a complaint leaves the party, complaints to which they are a party will continue to be processed, and they shall continue to be invited to participate.
 - The following sections outline the rest of the disputes and complaints process.

4 Referrals

- 4.1 When the party has received a complaint, DCRG shall be responsible for determining (ideally within two calendar weeks) whether:
 - 4.1.1 To dismiss the complaint or refer the complaint onwards, and if so where.
 - 4.1.2 A complaint meets the UPVAM criteria, and if this affects their referral decision.

SOC Note: the acronym 'UPVAM' as used here and in motion D09 stands for 'Unreasonable, Persistent, Vexatious, Abusive or Malicious'.

- 4.1.3 Any requested anonymity will be granted (and if so on what grounds).
- 4.1.4 To request temporary suspension of one or more of the respondent(s) pending investigation (SPI), which shall then be considered by GPRC in accordance with their standing orders.
- DCRG may refer a complaint to party bodies recognised by the Regional Council for this purpose, including but not limited to: Regional parties (where a Regional disputes process is in place), Disciplinary Committee, Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, the Spokesperson Support and Monitoring Group, or the Regional Council itself.
- 4.3 DCRG shall keep a record of its referral decisions using a standardised form.
- 4.4 The Complaints Manager will inform any respondents who have been named in a complaint, and the complaint will be provided to them with any redactions deemed appropriate by DCRG.
- 4.5 The Complaints Manager should collect diversity information from the respondent to assist the party in avoiding institutional bias against protected characteristics, and this information shall be aggregated and anonymised before being shared with the EDI officer and EDI committee.

5 Investigations

- 5.1 The Chair of DC in consultation with others as set out in SOPDC shall consider each complaint referred to DC and determine whether it shall be joined with an existing case or become a new case. A case may contain one or more related complaint.
- 5.2 They shall appoint at least two Investigators from the Investigator pool to each case.
- 5.3 The Investigator (s) assigned to a case shall ordinarily be empowered to investigate a case, or otherwise will facilitate an investigation that is conducted by another third party approved by the Green Party Executive.
- 5.4 Investigators must ensure that respondents are given an opportunity to respond in their defence.
- 5.5 When the assigned Investigators have completed their investigation (or determined that no investigation is required) they shall produce a charging document and inform the Chair of DC. This document may be finalised by simple majority of the assigned Investigators, or by the Chair of DC in the case of a tie.
 - 5.5.1 The charging document shall indicate which conduct is alleged, the associated evidence; and which clauses of the code of conduct, party's constitution, and/or sanction or temporary suspension have been breached. This may be include information provided in the original complaint form(s) or rely on the other findings of the investigation.
 - 5.5.2 The Chair of DC shall refer the completed charging document to DCRG, which shall consider whether the case as a whole merits requesting that the Regional Council consider imposing a temporary suspension (pending a final disciplinary outcome). DCRG may also choose to dismiss the case in its entirety where appropriate.
 - The Investigators may also, with the consent of the Chair of DC, request temporary suspension prior to the completion of the charging document should this be felt to be necessary.
 - 5.5.3 The Complaints Manager will inform the respondent(s) who have been named in the charging document that the party is to bring a disciplinary case against them, and the charging document will be provided to them with any redactions deemed appropriate by DCRG.

6 Hearings

- 6.1 A hearing will be held where a panel of three members of DC shall act as judges, and the assigned Investigators shall present the case on behalf of the Green Party.
 - 6.1.1 No person shall be an Investigator and judge in the same case.
- 6.2 Hearings will be held at the next practicable date where respondent(s) have been provided at least two calendar weeks notice.
 - 6.2.1 Religious holidays, life events and major commitments, or other culturally important celebrations observed by the respondent or other participant should be avoided, provided the party is informed of such a conflict within one week.
- 6.3 Respondent(s) shall be given an opportunity to provide a defence during the hearing.
- Respondent(s) may have the support of a McKenzie Friend should that seem desirable to them. They shall be able to support and advise the respondent but may not address the hearing directly.
 - 6.4.1 A McKenzie Friend must either be a member of the party or have otherwise agreed to follow the party's code of conduct during their participation in the disciplinary process. Any such person who breaches the code of conduct during a hearing may be removed by majority decision of the assigned panel members.
- 6.5 Disciplinary cases are between The Green Party and one or more named respondents, not disputes between individuals. Complainants may be invited to speak or provide evidence in the hearing, but are not expected to present the case as a whole.
- Observers are not permitted at hearings to ensure the privacy and dignity of the respondents and any witnesses or other participants.

7 Decisions

- 7.1 The assigned panel members will convene to decide the outcome of the case. They shall provide their decision in writing to the Complaints Manager, ideally within three calendar weeks. Where this is not practicable, they shall advise participants (via the complaints manager) when they may receive a final decision.
- 7.2 The assigned panel members shall have access to relevant precedent and to any past cases concerning the respondent(s) and/or complainant(s), and may consider these factors when issuing a decision.
- 7.3 The panel members shall issue a decision, which may include one or more sanctions which the party shall impose on the respondent(s).
- 7.4 Decisions of the assigned panel members shall be made by a simple majority.

 Dissent may be recorded by way of a minority report when appropriate, provided this is submitted such that it can be included with the rest of the decision.

8 Appeals

- 8.1 Complainants and Respondents both shall have a right of appeal against one or both of:
 - 8.1.1 The severity of the sanction, when wrongdoing was found, on the basis that it was unreasonable i.e. not in line with the party's guidance on sanctions.
 - 8.1.2 The finding of innocence or wrongdoing by the Disciplinary Committee, Local, or Regional party, on the basis that the process was procedurally unfair to the appellant.

Procedural unfairness is restricted to procedural grounds i.e. that the process set out in the Standing Orders for Party Discipline was not followed correctly (or there was discrimination with respect to one or more protected characteristics).

The Appeals Committee is not to consider evidence relating to the conduct or facts alleged in the case.

- 8.2 Members wishing to make an appeal of an earlier decision must do so within four calendar weeks of receipt of that decision.
- 8.3 The Regional Council shall produce an appeals form (including accessible versions as required) and the party shall make the appeals form(s) available on the members website and/or to members who have received a disciplinary sanction.
- The appeals form(s) shall ask if the member is making an appeal on the basis of either 8.1.1, 8.1.2, or both.
- 8.5 The Appeals Committee will consider Appeals made against 8.1.1 and/or 8.1.2.
 - If the committee <u>only</u> finds in favour of the Appellant with respect to 8.1.1, they may issue a decision altering the sanction. However if the committee finds in favour of the appellant with respect to 8.1.2, they shall refer the case to the Disciplinary Committee to either re-hear or re-investigate the case as instructed by the Appeals Committee. A case that has been referred back on Appeal shall not be heard by any of the original panel members.
- The Appeals Committee may hold a hearing with the Appellant or may issue a decision based on what has been provided in writing, as it deems appropriate.
- 8.7 If the Appeal is not upheld, the case is concluded and the earlier decision becomes final.
- 8.8. Decisions of the Appeals Committee are subject to further oversight as set out in the standing orders of the Regional Council.
- 8.9 The Appeals Committee shall have jurisdiction to hear Appeals to disciplinary findings of any Local or Regional party.
- 8.10 While an Appeal is under consideration, any sanctions imposed by the Disciplinary Committee, Local, or Regional party shall remain in effect.

9 Reporting and Accountability

9.1 The Chair of DC will report to the party's AGM, and the report shall include the number of complaints received by DCRG and how many members in each region were subject to a complaint. Anonymised statistics of the protected characteristics of respondents and complainants shall also be included. The Complaints Manager shall provide these statistics to the committee in advance of any report deadlines, and should separately make these available to the EDI officer and EDI committee at least annually where practicable.

The Complaints Manager will no longer be required to report directly to the AGM.

- 9.2 When a sanction has been imposed, the Complaints Manager shall (within one working day, as a priority) inform all recognised groups of common interest and national party bodies in addition to the relevant regional and local parties and any committees which the sanctioned member belongs to.
- 9.3 The Complaints Manager shall (within one working day, as a priority) ensure that access to any sensitive systems (including but not limited to) official communication platforms, financial systems, etc. are removed

urgently and prior to a respondent being informed of a sanction which would limit access to those systems in order to mitigate misuse where practicable.

- 9.3.1 The same shall apply where there is a temporary suspension.
- 9.4 The Complaints Manager shall (within one working day, as a priority) ensure the names of those sanctioned and a record of any active sanctions is made available on the members website or in another suitable place along with a summary of the reasons for each decision to ensure that disciplinary sanctions are transparent and accountable, and that they are adhered to.
 - 9.4.1 The same shall be made available for temporary suspensions.
- 9.5 There is a general presumption of confidentiality within the disputes and complaints process.

This means that staff or volunteers in positions of responsibility within the process should not discuss these matters in an inappropriate forum, and confidential information should be shared with as few people as practicable.

This confidentiality may be waived in part or in whole by the Regional Council, for example when a respondent has spoken publicly and misrepresented the facts of their case or in response to rumours.

Confidentiality does not prevent respondents, complaints, or other victims or witnesses from speaking out about their experiences.

10 Guidance and Elaboration:

10.1 The Regional Council and/or the Disciplinary Committee may produce guidance for the purpose of assisting members acting within the disputes and complaints process and to ensure that they may exercise their responsibilities fairly, consistently, and in line with the party's values.

These may include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Training for volunteers (including guidance on equality, diversity, and inclusion)
- Disputes vs Complaints
- Anonymity vs Confidentiality
- Recusal and Conflicts of Interest
- DCRG referrals
- On-Calls/NFS/SPI considerations
- Sanctions and Proportionality

This guidance shall be available as appendices to these standing orders and/or within the Framework of Ethics and Conduct.

10.2 As an appendix to the Standing Orders for Party Discipline (SOPD), there shall be Standing Orders and Procedures of the Disciplinary Committee (SOPDC) which set out in further detail the operation of the Disciplinary Committee and the appointed Investigators.

11 Review and Revision

- 11.1 This document (the Standing Orders for Party Discipline) i.e. the party's disputes and complaints process will be reviewed by the Regional Council at least every three years.
- 11.2 The Standing Orders for Party Discipline (SOPD) may be amended by either:

- A simple majority of Conference
- A simple majority of the Disciplinary Committee, subject to ratification by a simple majority of the Regional Council
- A two thirds majority of the Regional Council

Standing Orders Committee may make minor textual amendments as required.

- 11.3 The Standing Orders and Procedures of the Disciplinary Committee (SOPDC) and other appendices to SOPD may be amended by either:
 - A simple majority of Conference
 - A simple majority of the Disciplinary Committee
 - A simple majority of the Regional Council

Standing Orders Committee may make minor textual amendments as required.

11.4 At the conclusion of a Dispute or Complaint, Complainants and Respondents shall each be provided by staff with an anonymous feedback survey where they will be asked if they have any recommended improvements and whether they have any protected characteristics (with the option not to declare).

The feedback will be reported to the Regional Council at least annually.

12 Local and Regional Party Complaint Systems

- 12.1 Complaints must in the first instance be made to the Green Party's national Complaints Manager to ensure that the complaint is properly brought, and that there is procedural fairness and an appropriate referral by DCRG.
- 12.2 Regional parties are expected to have their own process for handling Disputes and Complaints referred to them by the Disputes and Complaints Referral Group.
- 12.3 Local parties may operate their own disputes and complaints process for handling Disputes and Complaints referred to them by the Disputes and Complaints Referral Group.
- 12.4 Decisions made under any Local or Regional disputes and complaints process are subject to appeal which shall be considered by the Appeals Committee (see 8.9), and no Local or Regional party may reverse, change, or undermine a decision made at a higher level.
- 12.5 Sanctions or other decisions issued by a Regional or Local party must be reported to the Complaints Manager so these can be reported alongside any other sanctions (see 9.4).

13 Temporary Suspensions

- 13.1 When imposed by the Regional Council or the designated on-calls committee, a temporary suspension pending investigation (SPI) means that the member concerned must not volunteer for the Green Party or any part of it in any capacity except to participate in any disciplinary cases in which they are a party. They must not participate in Green Party social media spaces.
- 13.2 Where a temporary suspension has both exceeded 60 days in duration and been ratified by the Regional Council in a decision taken after the elapse of those 60 days, any posts held by the member shall be considered vacant, including any candidacies for external office.
- 13.3 The basis for imposing a temporary suspension shall be that based on the information available there is either (i) a significant likelihood of continued misconduct which would harm individuals, bodies, or the party

- as a whole which may be mitigated by imposing a suspension, or (ii) a significant reputational risk for the party.
- 13.4 Breach of a temporary suspension shall be considered by the panel members in the case when considering sanctions, and may also be justification for the submission of additional complaints or other appropriate action.
 - When a breach of temporary suspension or other sanction is reported by way of a complaint this may be referred to: 1. Disciplinary Committee and therefore the Investigator(s) and/or 2. GPRC/on-calls to consider whether immediate action is required.
- 13.5 In the first instance, members placed on temporary suspension will have a 28 day right of reply in which to make representations and/or provide mitigations to the risks identified, after which time the Regional Council's on-calls committee will review the temporary suspension, taking into account what has been provided.
- 13.6 From time to time the Regional Council will review any active temporary suspensions, ideally quarterly. When the Regional Council continues a suspension, this is a ratification of the suspension. In advance of a review, members on a temporary suspension shall be offered two calendar weeks to make representations and/or provide mitigations to the risks identified.
- 13.7 The Regional Council shall keep a record of its temporary suspension decisions using a standardised form.

Appendix A: Standing Orders and Procedures of the Disciplinary Committee (SOPDC)

(To be provided at a later date)

Appendix B: Guidance on Training for Volunteers

Training which should be undertaken by members in roles relating to the Disputes and Complaints

system (i.e. DCRG, DC, Appeals and on-calls (GPRC)):

- Discrimination law
- Bias and unconscious bias
- Safe spaces
- Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Data protection

Appendix C: Glossary

Disputes vs Complaints

A dispute concerns a disagreement or misunderstanding between two parties that may benefit from a third party mediating the situation.

A complaint concerns a breach of the party's code of conduct or the constitution.

Anonymity vs Confidentiality

Anonymity concerns when the identity of one or more persons has been hidden in order to protect them e.g. from retribution.

Confidentiality means that certain matters should be kept secret and not be discussed outside of appropriate forums.

Recusal vs Conflict of interest

Recusal means a decision taken by a person to refrain from participating in a discussion, perhaps because of a perceived conflict of interest.

Conflict of interest means a person has a stake in the outcome, for example because they are close friends with one of the parties or because they stand to make money from the outcome.

See GPRC's Guidance on Recusal.

D11

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – JOINT MEMBERSHIP OF SOC AND GPRC

Linda Oubridge*, Cee Alexander, Raymond Obedencio, Anne Baker, Siobhan Scanlan, Zoe Price, Sue Westlake, Kerri Edmondson, Shane Collins, Elinor ni Chathain, Sue Corner, Zoe Richards, Marcus Grant

SYNOPSIS

Standing Orders Committee (SOC) and Green Party Regional Committee (GPRC) are two of the most powerful and demanding bodies on the Party. For anyone to be members of both bodies risks conflicts of interests and an inappropriate concentration of power and influence.

MOTION

SOC Note: this motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

This motion proposes to change the following phrase from Section 10 CONFERENCES Clause iv) of the Constitution of the Green Party of England and Wales from:

"(not more than two of whom shall be members of the Regional Council)."

to:

"(none of whom shall be members of the Regional Council)."

So Section 10. CONFERENCES Clause iv) now reads:

"iv) The SOC shall consist of not more than five members elected by Annual Conference (none of whom shall be members of the Regional Council)."

Note:

In accordance with the Constitution s21(iii): "No amendment to the Constitution shall be retrospective in nature/effect", the passing of this motion will not affect any member currently in the position of being a properly elected member of both bodies until the next election for one or the other takes place.

D12

EDI ACCREDITATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Kathryn Bristow*, Rebekah Roebuck, Kyra MacDonald, Richard Green, Simon Hales, Ellie Freeman, Esme Hay, Demetrius Williams, Clare Hartland, Peter Price, Cade Hatton, Rowan Page, Matt Rogan, Felicity Cullen

SYNOPSIS

The Green Party's 2022 EDI Audit Report produced by Diverse Matters highlighted several gaps in the party's commitment to being a fully inclusive employer. This motion seeks to address some of those areas through accreditation and membership of external EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) schemes.

MOTION

Conference believes the Green Party of England and Wales should be a leader in the workplace for all areas of equality.

While the party has made good steps being a part of Stonewall's Diversity Champions and the Disability Confidence Scheme Level 2, though the party can take further steps in all areas of equality.

Additional schemes that the party may consider that were recommended by the EDI Audit Report alongside Stonewall and the Disability Confidence Scheme are:

National Centre for Diversity (Investors in Diversity and Leaders in Diversity),

Business Disability Forum (BDF) Disability Standard,

Excellence in Diversity Top 50 Inclusive Employers,

Race for Opportunity/Opportunity now,

Mindful Employer,

Mind Workplace Wellbeing benchmark,

ENEI Employers Network for Equality and Inclusion.

Conference believes that the party should seek accreditation or membership to such schemes, as this work is vital to our goals of ensuring equality, diversity and inclusion as a workplace.

Conference also believes that this work is also vital for our membership and volunteers.

Therefore conference instructs GPEx to:

Work towards Level 3: Disability Confident Leader in the Disability Confidence Scheme.

Continue the Green Party's membership of Stonewall's Diversity Champions programme and take part in the Workplace Equality Index, so the party can definitively benchmark our progress of LGBTIQA+ inclusion as a workplace.

Seek further accreditations and memberships to workplace EDI schemes, these may be ones recommended by Diverse Matters or other schemes that the party has investigated. The selection of schemes in addition to the party's existing schemes should prioritise race, age, gender equality, mental health, and disability including neurodiversity.

Address any concerns that Green Party employees have relating to EDI and listen to their input on which schemes the party should seek accreditation or membership to.

Investigate similar EDI schemes that are applicable to volunteers and seek accreditation or membership to such schemes.

D13

ELIMINATE EXTERNAL INFLUENCE IN GPEW DEMOCRACY

Jake Welsh*, Bob Irving, Andrew Browne, Hannah Spencer, Skye Dundas, Nick Hartley, Neil O'Doherty Peter Brommer, Chris Williams, Owain Sutton, Adam Turner, Robert Crowston, Patrick McAllister, Peter Price, Billie Nagle, Ben Foley, Abigail Finch

SYNOPSIS

This motion will prevent members from voting in national internal elections in the first 3 months of their membership as well as requiring 3 months membership in order to vote at conferences. This will ensure that our internal democracy reflects what our members want and not influenced by candidates or

SOC Note: Synopsis word limit reached

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

In the Constitution add to 10. Conference:

"xvi) All Green Party members will be eligible to vote in plenary sessions and elections taking place at conference after they have been a member for a minimum of three months by the first day of conference. Any member with less than three months membership by the first day of conference will be able to attend conference as a non-voting attendee."

17. Elections:

"v) All Green Party members will be eligible to vote in national elections after they have been a member for a minimum of three months at the close of nominations."

D14

ENSURE DIVERSITY OF CANDIDATES FOR INTERNAL ELECTIONS

Nate Higgins*, Claire Sheppard, Diane Jaques, Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Mark Whiley, Chloe Goldsmith, Scott Maun, Amelia Cheverton, Garry Turner, Alex Nettle, James Vesey-Miller, Laura Edie, Craig Torano, Mina Cousins, Ekua Bayunu, Anne-Marie Ashton, Nick Weeks, Olli Watkins, Ren Bindem, Lorna Russell, Andrew Jaswal, Hannah Albrooke, Joe Hudson-Small, George Salomon, Robert Callender, Douglas Rouxel, Rob Gardner, Marz King

SYNOPSIS

This motion introduces the nomination reopening process used in much of the party (such as General Election selection) to encourage diverse candidates for the Annual Ballot. It aims to avoid situations like the all-male Deputy Leadership election in 2022.

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

In Section 9 of the Constitution (Annual Ballot), Clause 9(iii) currently reads:

- iii) "The nominations for all posts included in an Annual Ballot shall open at 10.00 on the first week-day in June and close at noon on the last week-day in June. Voting shall close on receipt of the last post on the last week-day of August or five week-days before the start of the Autumn conference, whichever is the sooner." Insert new clause 9(iv) and renumber:
- iv) After nominations in the Annual Ballot close, where there are posts where the valid nominations do not include candidates who, between them, fulfil the following criteria, nominations will reopen. These criteria are women or non-binary people (noting that gender is self-determined), people of colour, and people who self-identify as having a disability. Nominations must reopen within three working days of nominations closing and must remain open for at least one full week. In this extended nomination period, nominations will only be accepted from candidates who fit (at least one of) the criteria unrepresented in the first round of nominations which led to the reopening of nominations.

D15

EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE FOR REMAINING CONFERENCE BUSINESS

Nate Higgins*, Stefan Liberadzki, Ed Furst, Claire Sheppard, Alex Powell, Diane Jaques, Chloe Goldsmith, Scott Maun, Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Laura Edie, Ann-Marie Ashton, Craig Torano, Mina Cousins, Ekua Bayunu, Nick Weeks, James Vessey-Miller, Olli Watkins, Ren Binden, Joseph Hudson-Small, Andrew Jaswal, George Salomon, Rajiv Sinha, Rob Gardner

SYNOPSIS

It has become increasingly difficult for motions to be heard at Conference even where they are non-contentious but cannot be fast-tracked. There are increasing attempts to reorder Conference agendas, which absorbs time. This motion attempts to address this by allowing GPRC to call Extraordinary Conferences to hear motions not reached.

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Section 10 (Conferences), clause viii of the Constitution reads:

viii) Any Annual Conference may decide to convene a Conference which will take place earlier than the next Annual Conference and which shall have those powers delegated to it by the convening Annual Conference. Such a Conference shall be called an Extraordinary Party Conference and shall be governed by the same Standing Orders as an Annual Conference. Any or all of the powers of an Annual Conference may be so delegated, including the power to amend this Constitution, but the resolution convening such a Conference must specify which powers are being delegated.

Insert new clause ix as follows:

ix) GPRC may also call an Extraordinary Party Conference to reach a resolution on any or all outstanding business (including Late and Emergency motions) not reached at the most recent Conference. No other business may be discussed at an Extraordinary Party Conference called by GPRC. An Extraordinary Party Conference may only be called by GPRC with at least four weeks' notice and must allow for remote attendance.

In Section A1 (Pre-agenda submissions, Initiating a motion to Conference), insert new clause A1.7

A1.7) There will be no ability to initiate new business for an Extraordinary Conference called by GPRC. In Section B3 (First Agenda Submissions, Publication of First Agenda) insert new clause B3.5

B3.5) For an Extraordinary Conference called by GPRC, the First Agenda will contain the motions and amendments set out in the notice by GPRC.

In Section C1 (Amendments, Late Motions and Final Agenda submissions, Amendment Submissions) insert new clause C1.8

C1.8) There will be no ability to submit new amendments for motions at an Extraordinary Conference called by GPRC Section D (Agenda Deadlines Countdown), clause 9 (Republishing of motions for an Extraordinary Conference) of the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference reads:

D9) For an Extraordinary Conference only the deadlines in Section D may be set aside by SOC for motions and amendments that were correctly submitted to the Agenda of the conference that resolved to hold the Extraordinary Conference, and were found to be In Order. Such items from the Agenda of the conference resolving to hold the Extraordinary Conference may be republished in the Agenda of the Extraordinary Conference.

Replace this with the following:

D9) For an Extraordinary Conference called by resolution of Conference, only the deadlines in Section D may be set aside by SOC for motions and amendments that were correctly submitted to the Agenda of the conference that resolved to hold the Extraordinary Conference, and were found to be In Order. For an Extraordinary Conference called by GPRC, these deadlines will be set aside by SOC for motions (and any amendments to motions) set out in the notice by GPRC calling the Extraordinary Conference. Such items from the Agenda of the conference resolving to hold the Extraordinary Conference may be, or in the notice by GPRC calling the Extraordinary Conference will be, republished in the Agenda of the Extraordinary Conference.

In Section F1 (The Final Agenda, Prioritisation Ballot), insert new clause

F1.2) There will be no Prioritisation Ballot for Extraordinary Conferences called by GPRC

In Section F2 (The Final Agenda, Order of Final Agenda), insert new clause

F2.8) For Extraordinary Conferences called by GPRC, the order of motions in the Final Agenda will be as at the Conference the motions were originally due to be heard at.

Section G2 (Attendance and Registration, Attendance), clause G2.2 reads:

G2.2) Non-members may attend any session of Conference on payment of the appropriate fee but they may be excluded from any session by a majority vote of those members attending that session. This provision may be set aside or limited to specific non-members, for an Extraordinary Conference only, by the motion and subsequent resolution that establishes the Extraordinary Conference.

Replace "motion and subsequent resolution with "motion or GPRC notice", so that it reads:

G2.2) Non-members may attend any session of Conference on payment of the appropriate fee but they may be excluded from any session by a majority vote of those members attending that session. This provision may be set aside or limited to specific non-members, for an Extraordinary Conference only, by the motion or GPRC notice that establishes the Extraordinary Conference.

In Section I (Elections at Conference), clause d reads:

d) SOC shall ensure that adequate time is made available for full and frank hustings to be held for all elections to be held during Conference at a suitable time that does not conflict with plenary or scheduled workshops. For an Extraordinary Conference only the motion calling for such a conference can provide for hustings to be held prior to the commencement of conference.

Replace Extraordinary Conference with "Extraordinary Conference called by resolution of Conference" so that it reads

d) SOC shall ensure that adequate time is made available for full and frank hustings to be held for all elections to be held during Conference at a suitable time that does not conflict with plenary or scheduled workshops. For an Extraordinary Conference called by resolution of Conference only the motion calling for such a conference can provide for hustings to be held prior to the commencement of conference.

Insert new clause i which reads

i) There will be no elections at an Extraordinary Conference called by GPRC

D16

MOVING FORWARD COOPERATIVELY

Nicole Haydock*, Margaret Westbrook, Kieran Turner, David Flint, Glyn Goodwin, John Matthews, Tina Rothery, Elizabeth Mansfield, Peter Allen, Myriam Salama Corr, Jay Ginn, David Wild, Anne Baker, Peter Murry, Danny McNamara, Peter Barnett, Ivan Noke, Martin Francis

SYNOPSIS

The principle of incorporation has been approved by Conference. The next stage is to adopt new Articles of Memorandum of Association to complete the process. Both the Co-op Party affiliated to the Labour Party and the Welsh Labour Party are co-operative companies limited by guarantee.

MOTION

Conference calls on GPEX to allocate the necessary resources to employ legal professionals to assist volunteers from a dedicated "Co-Operative Model Working Group" (CO-OPWG) in the drafting of a new Memorandum and Articles of Association based on the GPEW's shared values with the co-operative movement.

As a follow-up to initial and positive enquiries from Solicitors Bates, Wells Braithewaite reported in their Incorporation Scoping Paper The Green Party of England and Wales dated January 2015 * (Option C pages 25, 26, 27,28,29,30), this **draft document to be submitted** no later than 30th March 2025 to the Co-operatives UK and the Financial Conduct Authority for their consideration.

Once those submissions have received provisional approval from the Co-operatives UK and the Financial Conduct Authority, the proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association to be put to a ballot of all members of the GPEW for ratification as per paragraph 21 of the Constitution - Revision of the Constitution ii)

The Co-op WG to be jointly convened by the proposer and seconder of this motion and be made up of 15 supporters to the project including one member nominated by each of the 9 Regions, plus Wales no later than 30th November 2024. Members of this working group to be provided with administrative assistance from the GPEW's CEO as required.

D17

COUNTER PARTISANSHIP AND BUILD CONSENSUS SKILLS

Amanda Onwuemene*, Chris Cooke, Alex Geddis, Naomi Graham, (Gordon Sharp), Jim McGinley, Gina Dowding, Elinor ni Chathain, Debra Cooper, Indar Picton-Howell, AC Baker, Frances Mortimer, Anne Johnson, Tina Rothery, Lawrence Brown, Peter Barnett, Beth Franks, Kate Souper

SYNOPSIS

Learning consensus building skills will help local parties and special interest groups (SpIGs) to manage differences of opinion on contentious issues without members resorting to the complaints system when debate includes discussion that may be perceived as hurtful or offensive and promote listening to marginalised voices.

MOTION

Conference instructs Green Party Executive to find an appropriate provider to train two nominated persons from each SpIG and each Region in consensus building skills and techniques, with the expectation that Regional representatives will run a similar event to train members of each local party in their region.

Conference requests the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee design and distribute templates to assist Committees of SpIGs, local and regional parties in resolving internal conflict without use of the Complaints system, whenever appropriate (i.e. where in the disciplinary system any sanction may be at the level of censure, offering an apology, short term exclusion from events).

Conference requests that the Equality and Diversity Committee creates a set of guidelines and resources on consensus-based governance, outlining best practices, communication strategies, and conflict resolution mechanisms to support members in engaging in consensus-building processes.

BACKGROUND

D18

REDUCING CONFLICT OVER GENDER CRITICAL DEBATE

John Coyne*, Nicole Haydock, Christopher Cooke, David Flint, Zoe Richards, Jim McGinley, Lawrence Brown, Jon Lucas, Kerri Edmondson, Maire T Smith, Gordon Sharp, Gina Dowding, Marcus Grant, Anne Johnson, Kate Souper, Sarah Bond, David Teasdale, Brig Oubridge, Shane Collins, Tina Rothery, Fiona Coyne

SYNOPSIS

The motion aims to clarify that expression of gender critical views - provided that expression is reasonable or "non objectionable" - is permitted in the Green Party. And it seeks to find common ground, avoiding or reducing conflict.

MOTION

Conference considers that the expression of gender critical views should not be a reason to exclude or to take disciplinary action against any member, provided the manner of that expression is not "objectionable". Conference instructs Party governance bodies, including GPRC, Disciplinary Committee, and the Green Party Executive (GPEx) to be guided by that view.

In deciding what is and is not an "objectionable" expression of gender critical views, Party governance bodies should have regard to case law, including Ms A Bailey v Stonewall Equality Ltd and others: 2202172/2020, and Maya Forstater v CGD Europe and Others: UKEAT/0105/20/JOJ

Conference requests GPEx to review available legal advice on reasonable expression of gender critical views in a political party and to obtain new, independent and publishable legal advice on the compatibility of the current "Guidance to Identify Queerphobia" with the Equality Act 2010 and the European Convention on Human Rights, Article 10.

Conference instructs GPRC to invite representations from all members and to consult all Special Interest Groups in the Party in order to find common ground on how gender critical views may be expressed in a way which minimises hurt or discomfort to trans people - for example avoidance of mis-gendering or dead-naming.

SOC Note: links to supporting documents are provided below:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?download=0&guid=c71c19eb-95c6-48e7-bad7-7b8e81bea30c&hash sha1=c50dc9cd

 $\frac{https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?download=0\&guid=614ce5f9-b48e-413a-9741-f0c2a4320e8b\&hash\ sha1=f6a3866b$

D19

RESTORING SPRING CONFERENCE

PDC: Anne Gayfer*, Ray Harding, Martin Blake, Vix Lowthion, Adrian Spurrell

SYNOPSIS

D18, autumn 2023 led to the cancellation of spring conference. This has led to unintended consequences that have been stressful for members developing policy, have added to the work of PDC with no additional resources and required constitutional work-arounds to allow new major policy to continue to be developed.

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

In light of the unintended consequences, particularly facilitating the updating of the Policy for a Sustainable Society, much of which is very out of date, conference resolves to reinstate spring conference to enable the policy process to run smoothly.

Specifically, conference reinstates the constitution as follows:

Section 10.i of the Green Party constitution: delete the wording, "and may hold an additional Conference each spring, only when it is financially prudent to do so..." with "and will usually hold an additional conference each spring".

D20

REVISE SAFE SPACES POLICIES TO ENABLE PROPER DEBATE

Siobhan Scanlan*, Jessica Goldfinch, Linda Oubridge, Cee Alexander, Peter Barnett, Raymond Obedencio, Maire Smith, Alex Geddis, Zoe Price, Anne Johnson, Susan Westlake, Anne Bateman, Pallavi Devulapalli, Jon Lucas, Sue Corner, Zoe Richards, Marcus Grant

SYNOPSIS

There are occasions when different groups within the party need to be able to advocate for their own group's needs which may clash with those of another group. For proper debate, all members need to be able to speak freely and not be silenced or threatened with party discipline.

MOTION

Conference instructs appropriate party bodies to;

- 1. Delete the current Safe Spaces Policy* and reference to Safe Spaces in the Constitution* and Code of Conduct* with members, if necessary, using the normal complaints procedure until the replacement policy outlined below is in place;
- * Delete Safe Spaces Policy from ROPS:

- "• The Green Party are committed to providing an environment free of racism, sexism, disablism, homophobia, transphobia, religious discrimination or any other types of oppression. Oppression is defined as the marginalization of one social group for the benefit of another more powerful group.
- The Green Party are committed to providing an environment free of bullying, name-calling or any forms of abusive behaviour. Bullying is defined as behaviour which is intended to hurt another physically or emotionally.
- The Green Party are committed to challenging these types of oppression whenever they occur in Green Party spaces.
- The Green Party are committed to putting first the needs of those whose safety is compromised.
- It is vital that everyone dealing with safe space related disputes has had training on intersectionality and oppression.
- The safe space policy can be amended at conference by a simple majority."

SOC Note: This part of the motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

- * Delete Constitution:
- 5. ORGANISATION

"xxii) The Green Party are committed to providing an open and inclusive environment for activism. As such all bodies shall follow the safe space policy." Renumber other clauses as necessary.

*Delete Code of Conduct: (delete italicised text only)

"9.2 The Green Party should also be a space that is as safe or safer than society as a whole. Therefore discriminatory, oppressive or abusive behaviour should be prevented and stopped when it occurs. The aim is to provide an environment free of this. Any form of such behaviour is a breach of this Code, as is failure by a person in a role with responsibility, such as a Chair, Moderator or similar to take appropriate action to prevent or stop it. Members should also be aware of risks and act to mitigate them."

Insert italicised text into the Code of Conduct until the replacement policy is in place:

"9.2 The Green Party should also be a space that is as safe or safer than society as a whole. All members must treat each other with respect. When debating issues, there is a requirement to focus on the issue and not individuals, and for disagreeing members to treat one another with consideration, recognising that those opposing each other's arguments may find the beliefs and words of the other offensive. However, where members are deliberately offensive (e.g. swearing or using insulting and pejorative terms) this is a disciplinary matter and the Complaints system should be used. Chairs and Moderators should warn speakers about the tone and content of their speeches or questions and remind observers they may encounter ideas and language they personally find offensive but discussions will remain within reasonable and legal boundaries."

Once the replacement policy is in place, replace the clause immediately above with this:

"9.2 The Green Party should also be a space that is as safe or safer than society as a whole. All members must treat each other with respect. When debating issues, there is a requirement to focus on the issue and not individuals, and for disagreeing members to treat one another with consideration, recognising that those opposing each other's arguments may find the beliefs and words of the other offensive. However, where members are deliberately offensive (e.g. swearing or using insulting and pejorative terms) this breaches the Code of Conduct. Chairs and Moderators

should warn speakers about the tone and content of their speeches or questions and remind observers they may encounter ideas and language they personally find offensive but discussions will remain within reasonable and legal boundaries."

- 2. commission the EEDI Manager and E&D Committee to work together to draw up a replacement policy that offers protection to all groups recognised under Equality Act 2010, while enabling robust discussion of Policy including potential conflicts;
- 3. instruct the EEDI Manager to provide definitions ofpotentially ambiguous terms in the new policy and contrasting definitions of terms that cause friction in debates encompassing clashes of rights of different groups with Protected Characteristics. Further, for the EEDI manager to produce and circulate written guidance for party bodies of appropriate ways to deal with situations when there is a conflict of rights, obtaining legal advice as necessary, with clauses subsequently replacing the one deleted above from the Constitution.

"5. ORGANISATION

xxii) The Green Party are committed to providing an open and inclusive environment for activism. As such all bodies shall follow the (insert name of new) policy." Renumber other clauses as necessary.

4. inform membership of all new / updated policies that could be used in disciplinary processes, so that members can avoid accidental breaches.

BACKGROUND

SOC Note: the background for this motion is located at Appendix 2

D21

SPECIAL INTERESTS NEED SPECIAL MANIFESTOES

Dylan Lewis-Creser*, Ben Samuel, Ria Patel, Tabi Joy, Charli Thompson, RoseMary Warrington, Kefentse Dennis, Kimmy Milham, Josefina Dowbor, Katie Fenn, Chloe Goldsmith, Asma Alam, Alexander Catt, Megan Hector, Rachel Collinson, Demetrius Williams, Benali Hamdache, Hannah Spencer, Rebekah Roebuck, Wasim Ahmed, Andrea Grainger, Connie Duxby, Matt Broadley, Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Adi Daly-Gourdialsing, Colin McCulloch, Rowan McLaughlin, Peter Price, Hannah Charlotte Copley, Kris Stewart, Ben Foley

SYNOPSIS

Typically, our party publishes manifestos from special interest groups at election time. This year the party chose not to. At previous General Elections processes have been vague. This motion seeks to formalise a process to ensure that, with support, special interest groups are able to write mini-manifestos if they wish.

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Insert a new 14 xi into the Green Party Constitution and renumber

xi) The party shall also publish community and issue specific manifestos at a General Election, developed by our special interest groups. The groups will be supported by the Equality and Diversity Coordinator, and where necessary the Elections Coordinator and the wider Green Party Executive. At the start of the election Green Party Regional Council will be mandated to provide a clear timeline for approval and publication.

SECTION E

POLICY MOTIONS

2024 GENERAL ELECTION MANIFESTO – CLARITY ON CLIMATE

Climate Emergency PWG: Phil Horton*, John McClintock, Tony Cooke, Pamela Harling, Tony Firkins, Finance & Economy PWG

SYNOPSIS

The 2024 Manifesto was developed over many months, with its completion rushed due to the timing of the General Election. The Climate Emergency Policy Working Group is proposing this Motion to realign the Manifesto with existing Policy, the latter having been carefully developed and approved by members at Conference.

MOTION

The following changes are proposed to the Green Party General Election Manifesto 2024, Long Version with Cover (GEM2024):

1. The Manifesto introduction states that a 1.5C temperature increase will "make human life on earth unliveable." This is an exaggeration.

In GEM2024 Introduction, delete "an increase that would make human life unliveable" and replace with "a level that substantially increases the risks for the climate and for humanity" so that the sentence reads:

"Since the last election, there have been an increasing number of days and months in which global temperature increases have breached 1.5oC, a level that substantially increases the risks for the climate and for humanity."

2. GEM2024 page 7, final paragraph, includes a statement "to require house builders to include solar panels". To align with Policies for a Sustainable Society, and to be realistic, insert "where possible and appropriate" after "solar panels" so that the phrase reads:

"to require house builders to include solar panels where possible and appropriate"

3. The Manifesto is not clear how many homes will be built over the Parliament stating 150k per year "as soon as possible".

GEM2024 page 7, first bullet point, after "Provide 150,000 new social homes a year" insert "by year 5" so that it reads:

"Provide 150,000 new social homes a year by year 5 and end the so-called 'right to buy', so that these homes can belong to communities for ever."

GEM2024 page 8, section "Social Housing", first paragraph. Delete "as soon as possible" and replace with "by year 5 of the parliament. This will add around 300,000 net additional social rent homes to the stock over 5 years" so that the first sentence reads:

"Our priority would be to increase Council and Housing Association provision of homes offered at low 'social rents' to 150,000 new homes a year, by year 5 of the parliament. This will add around 300,000 net additional social rent homes to the stock over 5 years."

4. Energy efficiency standards should not be watered down in the Manifesto as they are key to achieving our agreed zero carbon target in 10 years.

GEM2024 page 8, first full sentence, states "We will upgrade the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard to EPC C". Delete "EPC C" and replace with "EPC B" so that it reads:

"We will upgrade the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard to EPC C by 2026 and EPC B by 2030."

5. Achieving zero carbon in 10 years was a recent change to Policies for a Sustainable Society, and is the minimum requirement based on the latest science.

GEM2024 page 10, Section "Accelerating clean energy investment and delivery", first paragraph. Replace "as soon as possible, and more than a decade ahead of 2050" with "through continual development of climate policy with a target of achieving this within 10 years" so that it reads:

"We would push the government to transition to a zero-carbon society through continual development of climate policy with a target of achieving this within 10 years."

6. The Energy Policy Model estimate for state investment in transmission and distribution, as provided to the Manifesto working group, was cut by £20bn. This underestimates the investment required to deliver on the Manifesto's commitments.

Page 13, section "Creating a Fairer, Greener Economy", second column bullet point 1. Delete "£40bn" and replace with "£45bn" so that it reads:

"An average of £45bn per year over the course of the next parliament, including £7bn annually on climate adaptation."

GEM2024 page 13, section "A Green Economic Transformation", last paragraph on page. Delete "£40bn" and replace with "£45bn" so that it reads:

"We estimate that this green investment will require an average investment of £45bn per year over the course of the parliament to be spent as follows:"

GEM2024 page 14, financial table, first row "Electricity generation, transmission and storage". Delete "£50bn" and replace with "£70bn" so that it reads:

"Electricity generation, transmission and storage" | "£70bn"

Adjust table on GEM2024 page 45 to match figures above. Our proposed annual adjustments are to increase the sums on the "Green economic transformation" line:

2026: £1bn, 2027: £2.3bn, 2028: £4.8bn, 2029: £5.4bn, 2030: £6.5bn.

The overall deficit and other lines to be adjusted as required using the Manifesto costing model.

7. The Manifesto includes statements on aid funding which are in direct contradiction to PfSS policy IP254. This should be addressed by changing elements of both the manifesto and of PfSS to realign the targets and to ensure a realistic timeframe.

GEM2024 page 43, section "Climate Diplomacy and Overseas Aid", which begins on p.42. On p.43, after "Elected Greens would push the UK to:" delete "Go beyond restoring international aid to 0.7% of GNI, raising this" and replace with "Immediately restore international aid to 0.7% of GNI, then raise" so that it reads:

· "Immediately restore international aid to 0.7% of GNI, then raise to 1% by 2033"

PfSS IP254 (ii) delete "by 2030" and replace with "within a decade" so that it reads:

"The combined commitment will increase to 2.5 (two point five) percent of Gross National Income (GNI) within a decade (comprising of 1% for what was originally ODA and an additional 1.5% for concessional Climate Finance, including for loss and damage)."

8. The Manifesto confuses decarbonising the electricity system with decarbonising all energy, which is a far bigger challenge and not achievable by 2030.

GEM2024 page 10, section "Accelerating clean energy investment and delivery", paragraph 2 second sentence, change "Instead with investment in interconnectors and grid level storage, it's possible to decarbonise the energy system before 2030." To "Instead, we will invest in interconnectors and grid level storage to help rapidly decarbonise the electricity system." so that the paragraph reads:

"By diverting investment away from renewables, nuclear power is a distraction and a waste of time and money.

Instead, we will invest in interconnectors and grid level storage to help rapidly decarbonise the electricity system."

9. Correction to basis of figures being carbon dioxide equivalent, not carbon.

SOC Note: this section of the motion, if passed, would mean that section 3 of motion EO2 would fall away, since it asks for the same thing.

GEM2024 page 21, section "Carbon Tax", second paragraph, after "£120 per tonne" add "of carbon dioxide equivalent" and after "£500 per tonne" delete "of carbon" so that it reads:

"£120 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e), rising to a maximum of £500 per tonne emitted within ten vears"

BACKGROUND

These changes will aid our four new MPs in speaking to our Manifesto and our approved policy base with confidence, and without fear of being challenged about any contradictions between the Manifesto and our published policy.

Note that this Motion assumes that the Manifesto has been approved as Policy, either by default or through ratification at Conference. Page references, unless otherwise stated, are to the Green Party General Election Manifesto 2024, Long Version with Cover, as posted at https://greenparty.org.uk/about/our-manifesto/2024-manifesto-downloads/. Some changes, either to the Manifesto or to Policies for a Sustainable Society (PfSS) are required as the Manifesto directly contradicts existing policy statements. Others are required to ensure that the Manifesto realistically meets the requirements of PfSS. The latter points are based on the comprehensive Energy Policy Model (EPM) developed by a sub-group of the Climate Emergency Policy Working Group (CEPWG), https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/s/energy-policy-working-group/.

SOC Note: there is a link included to the briefing paper for this motion below:

E02

2024 GENERAL ELECTION MANIFESTO AND ECONOMICS

Finance & Exconomy PWG: Nadine Storey*, Nicole Haydock, Nick Barnett, Alex Page, Sheridan Kates, David Wild, Danny McNamara, Leslie Davies, Colin Boyle

SYNOPSIS

The 2024 General Election manifesto included many economics-related policies. The following amendments, brought by the Finance and Economy Policy Working Group, will correct errors and will support our MPs and spokespeople to put forward clear, defensible and strong policy.

MOTION

The following are changes proposed to the Green Party General Election Manifesto 2024 (GEM2024) as published on 12 June 2024 and posted at https://greenparty.org.uk/app/uploads/2024/06/Green-Party-2024-General-Election-Manifesto-Long-version-with-cover.pdf

1) Property Taxes

The proposed change is to clarify that this is a central policy and relates to the taxation of wealth.

p. 21 of GEM2024 currently reads:

'Our long-term policy aim is a Land Value Tax so that those with the most valuable and largest land holdings would contribute the most. In the next parliament, elected Greens will take steps towards this by pushing for... [this is followed by a series of bullet points].'

Conference approves the following changes:

Delete 'long-term'

After 'holdings', insert '(a significant source of wealth)'

Delete 'In the next parliament, elected Greens will take steps towards this by pushing for'

Insert 'Preparatory steps towards this in the next parliament will include'

Such that it reads:

'Our policy aim is a Land Value Tax so that those with the most valuable and largest land holdings (a significant source of wealth) would contribute the most. Preparatory steps towards this in the next parliament will include...[followed by the bullet points as they currently appear].'

2) Business Taxes

The change deletes the example of hospitality from the policy to remove VAT as this requires more nuanced policy development in order not to negatively impact health. The biggest beneficiaries of this as currently stated would be purveyors of unhealthy food that contributes to our health crisis, including corporations such as McDonald's. The example of 'the arts' remains unchanged.

p. 21 of GEM2024 currently reads:

'We would also propose a range of changes to VAT, reducing it on hard-pressed areas such as hospitality and the arts and increasing it on financial services and private education.'

Conference approves the following changes:

After 'such as', delete 'hospitality and'.

Such that it reads:

'We would also propose a range of changes to VAT, reducing it on hard-pressed areas such as the arts and increasing it on financial services and private education.'

Consequential change:

On p. 45, increase the Business Taxes figure by £3bn per year and adjust the total accordingly.

3) Carbon Tax

SOC Note: this section of the motion would fall away if section 9 of motion EO1 is passed, since it asks for the same thing.

Correction to basis of figures being carbon dioxide or equivalent, not carbon.

p. 21 of GEM2024 currently reads:

'£120 per tonne, rising to a maximum of £500 per tonne of carbon emitted within ten years'

Conference approves the following changes:

After '£120 per tonne' add 'of carbon dioxide equivalent'

After '£500 per tonne' delete 'of carbon'

Such that it reads:

'£120 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e), rising to a maximum of £500 per tonne emitted within ten years'

4) Public Sector Debt

To shift the language around public finance.

p. 22 of GEM2024 currently reads:

Title: 'Public Sector Debt'

Final paragraph: 'Greens will not allow our country to be held back by fiscal rules that don't serve us all – we're prepared to tax wealth and carbon emissions and prepared to borrow to invest in a fairer future.'

Conference approves the following changes:

In the title, delete 'Debt'

Insert 'Investment'

In the final paragraph, after 'all – ', delete 'we're prepared to tax wealth and carbon emissions and prepared to borrow to invest in a fairer future.'

Insert 'Greens will invest in a fairer future and are prepared to tax wealth and carbon emissions.'

Such that it reads:

'Public Sector Investment'

'Greens will not allow our country to be held back by fiscal rules that don't serve us all – Greens will invest in a fairer future and are prepared to tax wealth and carbon emissions.'

5) Comment in table of numbers

Further shifting of language to avoid negative connotations in the public understanding of deficit and debt.

p. 45 of GEM2024 currently reads:

At the bottom of the table: 'Deficit – funded by additional debt'

Delete: 'Deficit – funded by additional debt'

Insert: 'Additional public investment required'

BACKGROUND

SOC Note: there is a link included to the background paper for this motion below:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=359da589-c836-4501-82f7-4adc487d102d&hash_sha1=ef0b5b9e

E03

2024 GENERAL ELECTION MANIFESTO - RATIFICATION

Climate Emergency PWG: Phil Horton*, John McClintock, Tony Cooke, Pamela Harling, Tony Firkins,

SYNOPSIS

This is a motion to ratify the Green Party General Election Manifesto 2024, Long Version with Cover.

MOTION

Conference is asked to ratify the Green Party General Election Manifesto 2024, Long Version with Cover, as a policy statement.

BACKGROUND

The objective of this motion is, in the absence of any other motion from GPRC or PDC, to ratify the Green Party General Election Manifesto 2024, Long Version with Cover, as posted

at https://greenparty.org.uk/app/uploads/2024/06/Green-Party-2024-General-Election-Manifesto-Long-version-with-cover.pdf, to introduce the Manifesto to Conference to allow members to vote on it as policy, with or without any amendments that may be brought.

SOC Note: there is a link included to the briefing paper for this motion below:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=7ba8cfad-053a-40e9-adc7-42803cd85255&hash sha1=d6d78d1b

E04

ABOLISH LANDLORDS

Alexander Sallons*, Chris Ogden, Sam Easterby-Smith, Finn White, Hannah Albrooke, Claire Sheppard, James Whitaker, Thomas Atkin-Withers, Joe Lever, James Crawford, Joe Perry, Barnaby Suttle, Tom Meadowcroft, Kris Stewart, Fiona Aviani-Bartram, Marie Miron, Liam Kirby, George Morris, Alexander Catt, Dylan Ward, Jack Mellor, Alexander Sallons, Robert Lugg, Luke Walker, Mark Whiley, Josh Morris-Blake, Mat Wise, Emma Wolfe, Hannah Wilkinson, Elliott Sargent, Elliot Ayers, Miriam Shellabear, Philip Davies, Gus Goodbun, Will Jennings, Benedict Allbrooke, Cory Cronogue, Blake Roberts

SYNOPSIS

The Private Rental Sector has failed, it is a vehicle for wealth extraction, funnelling money from Renters to the Landlord Class. This motion makes it clear Green Party policy is to seek the effective abolition of Private Landlordism and our support for building Council Housing.

MOTION

Insert into Record of Policy Statements;

The Green Party believes that secure, affordable Housing is a Human Right, and that a core goal for a Green Government and Green MPs is to create a fairer housing market.

The Green Party believes the existence of Private Landlords adds no positive value to the economy or society, that the relationship between Landlord and Tenant is inherently and intrinsically extractive and exploitative. That the Private Rented Sector exists to transfer wealth from the working classes to Landlords.

The Green Party believes that the Private Sector has fundamentally failed, and is continuing to fail to provide secure and affordable housing fit for working people.

The Green Party believes that the Housing Crisis is a crisis created by the mass expansion of Private Landlordism, started in the 1980s.

The Green Party believes that the decommodification of Housing, and that the effective abolition of Private Landlordism and the Private Rented sector, coupled with the mass expansion of Council Housing is the only way to end the Housing Crisis.

The Green Party would use its existing policies like a Land Value Tax, Rent Controls, Ending Right-to-Buy and Buy-to-Let and giving Councils the powers to borrow, to fund a new Golden Age of quality and affordable Council Housing.

Here follows the Green Party's Six Step Plan to Abolish Landlords;

- 1. Introduce Rent Controls and Abolish Right to Buy. (HO401, HO503)
- 2. Abolish Section 21 Evictions and make all rental agreements secure long-term tenancies that can only be terminated by the tenant. (HO519)
- 3. Tax the Landlords move towards a Land Value Tax levied on Owners, not Tenants. No Exceptions. Business Rates on AirBnBs/Short Lets. No Exceptions. Double taxation for empty properties. Put National Insurance on Private Rents. (HO401, EC780-2)
- 4. Remove finance for Landlords end Buy to Let mortgages. (HO521)
- 5. Provide government backed finance to tenants. Give tenants First Right to Buy when Landlords sell, with their total rent paid discounted.
- 6. Provide finance to Councils. Councils should be given Second Right to Buy when Landlords sell, or property that hasn't been insulated to EPC rating C or fails to meet the decent homes standard, or any property that is left empty for more than six months, with the total current tenancy discounted, tenants moved to a truly affordable Council tenancy. Government must change prudential borrowing requirements to allow Councils to buy back and build new housing on a massive scale. (2024 Manifesto Pg9)

Insert into PfSS;

HO204 To minimise the number of private landlords in the Housing Market and regain public ownership of the housing lost to the Right to Buy scheme.

E05

ADDRESSING THE DIRE NEED FOR AI REGULATION

Science & Technology PWG: Graham Taverner*, Tim Davies, Nadine Storey, Diana Newsom, Linda Freeman, Hannah T. McLellan, George Ttoouli, Ann Mills, Diane Davies, Simon Pitts, Julie Spriddle, Paul Hoekstra, Alun Davies, Diane Davies, Jack Lenox, Celia Coram, Alan Francis, Tim Davies, Simon Pitts, Malcolm Bailey, Dagan Smith

SYNOPSIS

Despite the lack of prominence given to this issue in recent election, the likely impact of AI on our lives now and in the near future demands serious and urgent action. We feel it is imperative that we have clear policy in place showing how we will regulate AI for

SOC Note: synopsis word limit reached

MOTION

The following should be added to the Science and Technology chapter of PSS:

ST 380: We recognise the potential of AI to be of great benefit, including to achieve a sustainable future for our society, but also acknowledge both immediate and evidenced harms to our freedoms, social cohesion, livelihoods and democratic processes, and concerns about existential threats. As a result, we insist that there should be comprehensive, legally-enforceable regulation of AI to address ecological, social and economic harm, and guide developments to better serve people and the planet.

ST381: We will establish a robust regulatory system to provide oversight and coordination for sectoral regulation of data and AI. A coordinating body will recruit and develop the interdisciplinary expertise required to respond promptly to new AI developments. This body's overall aim will be to use regulation to effectively drive AI development and usage in line with the precautionary principle: ensuring systems are safe, transparent, accountable and both human and nature-centric.

We will take a risk-based approach to establish proportionate disclosure, participation, impact assessment and audit/compliance requirements for AI systems and applications. General purpose AI and generative AI pose systemic risks so will be subject to strict regulation. When risks are well managed, AI has the potential to make a positive contribution to our society, economy and environment.

ST382: We shall place deliberative and democratic processes, and the voices of those most affected by particular technology development and deployment, at the heart of data governance and AI regulation. Workers and other stakeholders must be actively involved in decisions about adoption of data and AI tools in the workplace and public life, and adoption decisions must be made at the lowest possible level in consultation with those affected.

ST383: We will introduce energy performance and water consumption labelling for AI systems to allow informed choice of their use and as a mechanism to drive improvements in their ecological impact.

ST384: Our economic and tax policies provide the basis for active intervention to address AI market concentration and monopolies, including through an internationally coordinated approach.

ST385: To ensure individuals and communities have prompt access to redress, we will create an AI Ombudsman to champion the rights of individuals and groups who submit complaints, or have complaints submitted on their behalf, relating to material or other harm from AI system output or decision-making.

ST386: Research funding, regulatory sandboxes, and public procurement processes will be used to guide AI innovation towards provision of public good, building on our strong national foundations of technical excellence, social science research and innovative business. Where AI is used to augment professional practice, we will ensure humans still make all key decisions, and where automated decision making significantly affects lives, this is done with care and humanity, and with speedy access to mechanisms for correction and redress.

ST387: We will prohibit certain uses of AI by law, including lethal autonomous weapons systems (See PSD541); AI systems that use deception (faking, impersonation etc) to manipulate behaviour or negatively impact on informed decision-making and/or democratic processes; routine biometric identification in public places; and emotion-recognition systems in workplaces or educational settings.

ST388: There can be no effective AI regulation without data governance. Therefore, we will ensure that robust data protection rules, and the inalienable moral rights of creators to have their contribution to creative output recognised, are respected. Developers of AI systems must respect all applicable copyright laws. In line with policy ST223 we recognise the value of making publicly-funded digital content freely accessible, including for training machine-learning models, alongside developing transparency standards so that sources of data may be verified and accurately referenced.

ST89: We will implement support for those whose livelihoods are disrupted by AI deployment, and will ensure workers' rights and interests are respected when AI leads to significant changes in working conditions (See WR104 and WR206). We see Universal Basic Income (EC402) as one important tool to proactively and positively respond to potential AI impacts on working lives; we see public education in good use of AI as another tool to enable individuals the freedom to live a worthwhile life, devoting time in whatever proportions they choose to the following "seven C's": - Curiosity, Conservation, Challenge, Creativity, Community, Charity, Care.

ST390: Our AI regulatory system will foster international links and encourage global collaboration towards establishing a world-wide body to oversee and police AI development, including establishing norms for AI to produce output that is in harmony with established human rights principles and sustainable development goals.

E06

ALIGNING POLICIES WITH THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Wildlife & Habitats PWG: Celia Coram*, Libby Hudson, Linda MacCallum-Stewart, Joanna Collins

SYNOPSIS

Motion to make the changes necessary to comply with commitments on international agreements on biodiversity which the UK government has signed.

MOTION

Amendment to the Forestry Chapter

Add new policy FR905 after policy FR904.

"FR905 Areas of unharvested forestry in the UK will be enhanced and increased (in consultation with devolved governments), with strong measures for protection in perpetuity, as per WH120 and subject to FR601, to support the targets in the Global Biodiversity Framework, as per policy numbered WH104. This will be achieved by state funding and planning policies." (Note: since WH104 is also a new policy the two are interdependent.)

Amendment to the International Chapter

IP252 currently reads:

- "IP252 Overseas development assistance (ODA) and climate finance to Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) sustained by UK Government bodies or development agencies will observe the following rules:
- (i) ODA and climate finance will be aimed at countries with the lowest income and/or the highest levels of inequality and/or with the highest risk of climate and ecological emergency impact; and where the UK has a climate debt and requirement for reparations;
- (ii) ODA and climate finance will reduce inequalities in income and inequalities in access to resources and assets;
- (iii) ODA and climate finance will support representation and empowerment of the most vulnerable groups in each country, promote community cohesion and peacebuilding;
- (iv) ODA will be locally designed and managed; subject to local oversight and scrutiny involving civil society; and be specific to local communities, indigenous populations and environments ending neo-colonial models of aid; (v) tied aid will remain illegal."

Add an additional clause to IP252 (v) and renumber existing (v) to (vi)

- (v) ODA will be used to meet the UK's International commitments to UN convention on Biological Diversity Framework targets so that the full paragraph reads:
- "IP252 Overseas development assistance (ODA) and climate finance to Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) sustained by UK Government bodies or development agencies will observe the following rules:
- (i) ODA and climate finance will be aimed at countries with the lowest income and/or the highest levels of inequality and/or with the highest risk of climate and ecological emergency impact; and where the UK has a climate debt and requirement for reparations;
- (ii) ODA and climate finance will reduce inequalities in income and inequalities in access to resources and assets;
- (iii) ODA and climate finance will support representation and empowerment of the most vulnerable groups in each country, promote community cohesion and peacebuilding;
- (iv) ODA will be locally designed and managed; subject to local oversight and scrutiny involving civil society; and be specific to local communities, indigenous populations and environments ending neo-colonial models of aid;
- (v) ODA will be used to meet the UK's International commitments to UN convention on Biological Diversity Framework targets.
- (vi) tied aid will remain illegal."

SOC Note: text struck through in blue has been found Out of Order for seeking to amend a Policy Voting Paper passed within one year and nine months preceding this Conference

Amendments to the Land Use Chapter

Amend **LD302** to insert after the words, "be reasonable and clear" the words, "taking into account traditional practice and communities, but the land must be managed with the primary objective of achieving positive outcomes for biodiversity." so that it reads:

"LD302 The holder of a land title (steward), will have responsibilities for stewarding land for the "common good" (PB451, MG201) which will be reasonable and clear - taking into account traditional practice and communities, and the land must be managed with the primary objective of achieving positive outcomes for biodiversity. Advice and financial help will be available (see LD502 and FA204 and FA300). Stewardship will be transferred with ownership and they cannot be separated. This will primarily affect large pieces of land rather than private gardens."

LD407 currently reads, "LD407 Government will also have the power to designate land critical for certain purposes, for example National Parks and ancient woodland; and also may make new land use designations such as peatland, wetland, saltmarsh."

Add reference to WH104

So that it reads:

"LD407 Government will also have the power to designate land critical for certain purposes, for example National Parks and ancient woodland; and also may make new land use designations such as peatland, wetland, saltmarsh." See also WH104

LD504 currently reads,

"LD504 The planning system will provide accountability and local democratic control over land use through compliance with local and regional plans. It will provide a mechanism for levying carbon tax (EC777) against land use change emissions associated with construction. In particular there will need to be land use designations for permanent pasture, forestry, peatland and land under agricultural rotation. See also FA301, LP412, LP505, LP514 and LP517".

Insert into LD504 a new second sentence, "it will recognise that a healthy environment is the only guarantee for future generations and communities" so that reads:

"LD504 The planning system will provide accountability and democratic control over land through compliance with local and regional plans. It will recognise that a healthy environment is the only guarantee for future generations and communities. There will need to be compliance between local and regional plans to ensure equitable use of land, which is a scarce resource.

It will provide a mechanism for levying carbon tax (EC777) against land use change emissions associated with construction. There will need to be land use designations for permanent pasture, forestry, peatland, land under agricultural rotation and degraded land. See also FA301, LP412, LP505, LP514 and LP517.".

Amendment to the Marine and Coastal Chapter

Add a new clause after MC208

MC209 We would commit to making at least 30% of UK domestic waters into fully protected Marine Protected Areas by 2030.

Amendments to the Wildlife and Habitats Chapter

Add new clause after WH103 as follows and renumber clauses WH104, WH105 and WH106:

WH104 The Green Party supports the targets for 2030 in the Global Biodiversity Framework Including:

- · 30% of UK land and fresh water planned and managed to reduce biodiversity loss,
- · 30% of UK degraded ecosystems restored and
- · 30% of UK land, water and sea conserved for nature.

In addition to the implementation of a Nature Regeneration Strategy, WH202, policies to help realise the targets listed above on land are, in consultation with devolved governments:

- rapid land use change over the next ten years as per LD401 implemented by the
- policy levers specified in LD502
- restoration of peatlands as per LD402
- designating land in perpetuity as supported by LD407 and LP405
- · protection of unharvested woodlands and forest as per FR200, FR600, FR602, FR904 and FR905
- protection of land currently designated as SSSIs in good condition as per LP405 and CY560
- a rationalised system of designations which includes strong measures for protection in perpetuity, as per WH120.

Clause WH104 currently reads:

WH104 Government agencies and local authorities will be financed and supported to produce regional and local nature regeneration plans to inform the national strategy. Plans will ensure that all of the authority's areas are supportive of the regeneration of nature, including housing, gardens and commercial property.

Renumbered to WH105 by the insertion of the new WH104. Add at the beginning: All local and neighbourhood plans and spatial development strategies will minimise impacts on biodiversity so that the loss of areas of high biodiversity value are brought close to zero.

so that it reads:

WH105 All local, neighbourhood plans and spatial development strategies will minimise impacts on biodiversity so that the loss of areas of high biodiversity value are brought close to zero. Government agencies and local authorities will be financed and supported to produce regional and local nature regeneration plans to inform the national strategy. Plans will ensure that all of the authority's areas are supportive of the regeneration of nature, including housing, gardens and commercial property.

The current version of WH120 (in the section on designated areas) states that:

WH120 The current system of site designations will be simplified and funding allocated to secure the protection and regeneration of their biodiversity. These sites will form the nucleus of the nature regeneration network that will enable sustainable and diverse habitats to spread out across all areas of the country.

This should be replaced so that it reads:

WH120: The current system of site designations will be simplified so that all designated sites can be incorporated into the nature regeneration network. [WH202]. Standards and targets will follow best international practice, as determined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and other expert opinion. [WH102]

Central Government will ensure that the necessary funding is available to enable all designated sites to maintain the conditions needed to regenerate and maintain their biodiversity in perpetuity. [WH103]

Add a new clause immediately after the current WH141 which states:

WH141 The Green Party will take a 30-year approach to delivering the strategy set out in Pillar II and create a cross-departmental budgetary framework that will be adequate for the work to be undertaken during this timeframe, subject to periodic reviews.

The new clause will be:

WH142: These reviews will cover any financial commitments the UK signs under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. The UK Government has signed the Global Biodiversity Framework [GBF] for 2021-30, which commits signatory Nations to collectively provide \$200 Billion annually by 2030 to achieve the targets set within the GBF. The UK should provide a proportionate amount of this global figure based on its Gross Domestic Product. This amounts to at least £5 Billion per year up to 2030

Then re-number the existing clauses WH142, WH143

Clause WH202: currently reads:

WH202 The national strategy will include developing the joined-up nature regeneration network [WH106], incorporating both land and aquatic environments, to allow the movement of species and the regeneration of new habitats. The whole network will have protected status and will be recognised within planning legislation and the Rights for Nature Act, severely limiting any activity that damages nature.

after the first and in the second sentence add: and be brought under effective long term management to enhance and maintain biodiversity.

Then start a new sentence: The regeneration network will be....

So that the whole clause reads:

WH202 The national strategy will include developing the joined-up Nature Regeneration Network WH107 [renumbered from WH106], incorporating both land and aquatic environments, to allow the movement of species and the regeneration of new habitats. The whole network will have protected status and be brought under effective long term management to enhance and maintain biodiversity. The Regeneration Network will be recognised within planning legislation and the Rights for Nature Act, severely limiting any activity that damages nature. [See also LD302].

SOC Note: there is a link included to the briefing paper for this motion below:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=b58d8551-5593-491b-b4a2-5b29154df05f&hash_sha1=5fe48adf

E07

ANTI-HINDUTVA HUMANITARIAN STANCE

Rajiv Sinha*, Janet Hall, Vivien Lichtenstein, Anita Sangha, Kim Marshall, Aasiya Bora, Mona Adam, Asma Alam, Tariq Salam, Paul Pettinger, Sharmen Rahman, Farris Wilson, Peter Underwood, Kathy Hughes, Mike Jelfs, Wini Varma, Wasim Ahmed, Richie Bryan, Naranee Ruthra-Rajan,

SYNOPSIS

The Green Party must condemn and combat Hindutva both in India and in the UK, including lobby organisations that promote the Hindutva ideology and efforts to stifle criticism of harmful practices and exclusionary politics.

MOTION

Insert into the Record of Policy Statements

The Green Party rejects Hindutva/Hindu nationalism and calls on the Indian government to reject Hindutva in favour of India's existing constitutional basis of secularism and democracy, and to ensure in practice the equal rights and opportunities of all minority groups.

BACKGROUND

SOC Note: the background for this motion is located at Appendix 3

E08

'CARE EXPERIENCE' AS A PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC

Vivien Lichtenstein*, James Hewitt, Larry Sanders, David Farbey, Mona Crocker, Sanya Mihaylovic, Michael Harvey, Naranee Ruthra-Rajan, John Coyne, Kim Marshall, Alina Baczynska, Adi Daly-Gourdialsing, Rowan McLaughlin, Mona Adam, Ria Patel, Rebekah Roebuck, Georgina Wright, Elaine Francis, Rachel Collinson, Kathy Hughes, Zack Polanski, Joshua Alston, Nick Barnett, Steph Warrick, Colin Boyle, Natalia Kubica

SYNOPSIS

The Green Party should recognise care experience as a protected characteristic and work to eliminate the range of potentially lifelong discrimination, stigma, and additional barriers that people with care experience face. All people with care experience should have every opportunity to thrive.

MOTION

Insert into the Record of Policy Statements

The Green Party endorses 'Care Experience' as a protected characteristic under the Equalities Act 2010. The Equality Act (2010) enshrined 'protected characteristics' and outlawed discrimination based on them. The UK Government must treat care experience as a protected characteristic, which will also be reflected in the Public Sector Equality Duty.

The Green Party recognises the manner in which some members of society are treated adversely following having been in care as a young person and that care experienced people face discrimination, stigma, harassment, victimisation and additional barriers throughout their lives, including regarding housing, health, education, employment, relationships and in the criminal justice system. Often society doesn't work to combat this which is unacceptable. Every care leaver should receive good support regardless of their geographical area.

Making care experience a protected characteristic provides care-experienced children and young people with lifelong protections from discrimination, and ensures that public bodies and organisations make policy decisions with care-experienced people in mind, for example, through Equalities Impact Assessments.

We request elected members to propose motions at their respective Local Authorities and Assemblies, ensuring people who have experience of being in care are thus protected, or to vote in favour should others propose motions. Alongside this, elected officials will push for pilots of Universal Basic Income (UBI) which would enable care-experienced young people to better access higher education and training, as well as allowing the state to act as a corporate parent in early adult life. Green Party councillors, as corporate parents, will push their councils to treat care experience as a protected characteristic and to provide the best possible care and safeguarding for the children looked after by their authority. Green Party councillors will champion children in care, hearing the voices of looked after young people, and challenging stigma and prejudice when it arises. They will work to support care leavers, reduce barriers and improve access to future opportunities and outcomes.

We request our Parliamentarians to propose the Equalities Act 2010 be updated to include 'Care Experience' as a protected characteristic, and to also champion care leavers as set out above.

E09

COVID AND LONG COVID

Ben Samuel * Juliet Nickels, Ruth Brooker, Antony Lempert, Rae Duncan, Jane Stevenson, Sam Williams, Chris Wright Autumn Barkley, Gay Lee, Helena Wallace, Gary Kelly, Lisa Diaz, Ceri Turner, Chris Horn, Anne McConway, Jackie Turvey Tait, Nick Hartley

MOTION

Insert into the Record of Policy Statements:

Since the start of the pandemic, there have been more than 770 million reported cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection globally. The true number is likely considerably higher. The pandemic has disproportionately impacted, and continues to put at risk, people of colour, people living in poverty, those in insecure employment, clinically vulnerable people and their families, families living in crowded or intergenerational households, disabled people and people living with mental illness, as well as teachers, NHS staff and other frontline workers.

Long-COVID is a complex physical disease that is disproportionately affecting younger age groups and can cause severe, life-changing disability. It encompasses a range of conditions including cardiovascular complications, neurological damage and new onset post-COVID type-1 diabetes, as well as more classical post-viral syndrome symptoms including chronic fatigue. An estimated 1.9 million people in the UK are currently suffering from Long-COVID, including 62 thousand children, according to the UK Office for National Statistics.

School absences due to repeated infections and chronic illness are impacting children's learning and life-chances. Unprecedented workplace absence levels are impacting productivity, exacerbating staff shortages and increasing pressures on staff needing to cover for absent colleagues. Far from protecting our economy, failing to combat this deadly and disabling disease is causing substantial economic damage. It is harming people's health and wellbeing and creating unsustainable pressures on health and social care systems.

Progressive parties should be leading the way in calling for urgent action to address this ongoing public health emergency. The Green Party will implement known, effective measures to control transmission and protect our families, our communities and our economy.

Our policies will encapsulate a "Swiss Cheese" approach, establishing multiple layers of effective risk mitigation to protect individuals and society from the potentially devastating impacts of severe acute COVID-19 and/or Long-COVID on lives, livelihoods and on the wider economy.

Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions

Clean Indoor Air

The Green Party believe that everyone has a right to breathe clean air. We will ensure that systems are put in place to deliver clean, HEPA filtered, indoor air and/or ventilation standards appropriate to control transmission of airborne infections, in health, social care and educational settings, workplaces and indoor community and leisure facilities.

Testing and Isolation

The Green Party will reintroduce universal free lateral flow device rapid antigen testing for COVID-19, to ensure that any outbreak of the disease is quickly detected, traced and contained.

Anyone with symptoms of infectious disease, or testing positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate. Where COVID-19 infection is confirmed, isolation will be required until they have tested negative for two consecutive days.

Comprehensive support will be provided to those required to isolate, or to care for dependants who are required to isolate, including the opportunity to work or learn from home if well enough and able to do so.

Public Health Campaigns

Through a clear, evidence-based public health campaign, The Green Party will encourage the use of filtering facemasks, appropriate to airborne infectious disease control, in any poorly ventilated or crowded indoor spaces including on all public transport.

The Green Party will ensure that there is openness and transparency about the risks and benefits associated with vaccines, that the risk/benefit analysis is continuously updated in response to emerging evidence, and that this information is communicated to the public through a clear, evidence-based public health campaign.

Vaccination

The Green Party will adopt a "vaccines-plus strategy": a multi-layered approach to mitigating risks from severe acute COVID-19 and Long-COVID, including non-pharmaceutical interventions to reduce exposure to infection as well as comprehensive all-age vaccination and booster programmes to protect individuals from severe disease and to generate and sustain population immunity.

Our policies will protect children by ensuring that in future their exposure to SARS-CoV-2 will be greatly reduced through non-pharmaceutical interventions. Subject to recommendation by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), children will be further protected through vaccination with safe, ideally nasally administered, vaccines appropriate to current variants.

The risks of Long-COVID in children and young people as well as working aged adults are well established, as is the protective role of vaccines against Long-COVID in adults. In light of emerging evidence that vaccines similarly protect children from Long-COVID, we will commission the JCVI to re-evaluate the risks and benefits of extending and re-establishing COVID-19 vaccine catch-up and booster programmes for younger age groups.

Specifically, in light of the impressive safety record of paediatric vaccines, we would commission the JCVI to reevaluate the risks and benefits of re-establishing vaccination for children aged 5 to 11.

Furthermore, in light of increasing evidence on risks to infants and children under 5 from severe acute COVID-19 and Long-COVID, and established evidence that children are better protected where their first exposure is to a vaccine rather than to infection, we would task JCVI with considering the risks and benefits of implementing a pre-school vaccination programme followed by regular updated boosters for this age-group.

Schools

The Green Party will ensure that our policies on clean indoor air and ventilation, and on testing and isolation are implemented in all schools and other educational settings.

All school staff will receive professional development training on maintaining an infection-resilient environment in schools. Parents and Guardians will receive clear, scientifically sound communications to inform them about the risks of COVID-19 and Long-COVID, as well as measures they can take, and encourage their children to take, to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Clear, science-based age-appropriate health education will be provided for all pupils.

Our policies will reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and mitigate the risks of severe acute COVID-19 and Long-COVID, providing protection for all pupils and staff as well as ensuring that clinically vulnerable pupils are able to access education safely, and making schools a safe working environment for clinically vulnerable school staff.

Our policies will ensure that schools no longer play a key role in the transmission of infectious diseases. This will reduce school absences by breaking the cycle of repeated infection and sickness.

Workplaces

The Green Party will ensure that all indoor workplaces have in place measures to mitigate risks from airborne infections and pollutants, to ensure that employers' duty of care towards their employees is discharged and workers' rights to a safe and healthy working environment are respected.

Our policies on clean indoor air and ventilation standards, and on testing and isolation will be implemented in all workplaces.

Until workplaces are compliant with clean indoor air and ventilation standards, employers will be required to assess workplace infection risks, and implement risk mitigation measures where necessary to protect their employees and enable clinically vulnerable staff to access a safe working environment.

Employers will be required to encourage and support working from home where possible. Where this is impracticable, employers will be required to provide respirator-grade masks suitable for airborne infectious disease control for use by employees, where necessary to protect them from risk of severe acute COVID-19 and Long-COVID.

Hospitals and Other Health and Social Care Settings

The Green Party will ensure that all hospitals and other health and social care settings have in place suitable measures to mitigate risks to staff and patients from airborne infections.

Our policies on clean air and ventilation standards and on testing and isolation will be implemented in all hospitals and other health and social care settings.

Health and social care workers will be required to test regularly for COVID-19. Our policies on isolation and support will be implemented across health and social care, to protect colleagues and patients.

All patients will be tested for COVID-19 on admission to hospital. Any patient testing positive will be accommodated and cared for separately to other patients to mitigate risks of hospital acquired infection, which has been shown to lead to worse health outcomes and can be life-threatening to vulnerable patients.

Until our policy on clean indoor air and ventilation standards has been implemented across all hospital clinical and communal areas, respirator-grade masks suitable for airborne infection control will be mandated for all hospital staff.

Once our policy on clean air and ventilation standards has been implemented, respirator-grade mask mandates will remain in place for staff caring for patients testing positive or where there is high clinical suspicion of an airborne infection, and for staff in patient-facing roles involving immunocompromised or otherwise clinically vulnerable patients.

Patients have a right to safe medical care. All patients will retain the right to request that their healthcare provider wear a respirator-grade mask when attending to them. Such requests will be honoured unless there are very good medical reasons not to do so.

We will introduce threshold prevalence levels that would trigger moving to enhanced measures in hospitals and healthcare settings. In addition, identification of any new "variant of concern" with a significant growth advantage will trigger precautionary enhanced measures. Such measures shall include reintroducing mandatory respirator use in all clinical areas and patient-facing roles, to protect staff and patients.

We are mindful of the extreme, relentless pressures on our health and social care systems and on staff operating under current unsustainable conditions. We are confident that Green reforms on the social determinants of ill-health and health inequalities will substantially relieve this burden. We are committed to fair remuneration and safe, healthy working conditions for all health and social care workers, and to the principle of comprehensive, free healthcare provision for all. We will restore NHS capacity to pre-austerity levels.

Research

The Green Party will support research into improved vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and improved therapeutics for SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19 and Long-COVID. We will appoint a Long-COVID Research Taskforce to set out Long-COVID Research priorities for the UK.

COVID-19 remains a notifiable disease. The Green Party will provide for free lateral-flow device testing and comprehensive data collection consistent with this designation. Data collected will form the basis of statistical, prospective, and retrospective clinical and transformational research to inform improvements in public health policy and clinical practice, to better mitigate risks and to better treat and manage disease.

The Green Party recognises Long-COVID as a complex physical disease that can be extremely debilitating and cause severe, life-changing disability. We will support and fund urgent research into treatment of Long-COVID on this basis. We will ensure that patients feel listened to, heard, and valued. Research and care systems will be co-produced with patients and the Research Taskforce, as well as expert scientific and other public advisors.

BACKGROUND

SOC Note: the background for this motion is located at Appendix 4

E10

ELECTRIFY THE EAST-WEST RAILWAY LINE FROM THE BEGINNING

Emma Garnett*, Josh Morris-Blake, Lucy Bywater, Christopher Haggart, James Thorniley, Peter Brommer, Neil O'Doherty, Rob Callender, Tiago Pinto, Alan Francis, Hannah Charlotte Copley, Mike McTimoney, Chloe Mosonyi, Andrew Browne, Sarah Nicmanis, Patrick McAllister, James Long, Andrew Browne, Owain Sutton, Adam Turner, Robert Crowston,

SYNOPSIS

East West Rail will fill an important gap in the rail network and help reduce car and lorry use in the region. It will largely replace the Varsity rail line, much of which closed in the 1960s. However, the railway line should be electrified as soon as possible to replace the diesel trains.

MOTION

Insert into Record of Policy Statements

"The Green Party supports the building of East West Rail in full from Cambridge to Milton Keynes to Oxford, and calls for the project to be electrified as quickly as possible. The railway should be accessible for everyone and be well connected to active transport routes. The route should minimise disruption to local communities as far as possible and bring benefits locally as well as regionally and nationally. The route should minimise negative impacts on housing, public green spaces, nature and wildlife and carry out appropriate mitigation works with sensitivity and generous compensation."

E11

ENABLING MOTION FOR CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT POLICY REWRITE

Culture, Media and Sport PWG: George Ttoouli*, Meg Shepherd-Foster, Sam Easterby-Smith, Jack Lenox, Hannah Spencer

SYNOPSIS

This policy hasn't been updated in over a decade and needs to account for major changes in cultural, media and sports contexts. The newly constituted Culture, Media and Sport Policy Working Group (CMS PWG) has begun drafting major revisions to the policy chapter. Additional time is needed to complete consultations

SOC Note: synopsis word limit reached

MOTION

Conference believes that a rewrite is required to account for developments, including: social media and digital rights, gambling, the Leveson Inquiry, sports equality and access, and Brexit's impact on culture and media, to name a few.

Conference therefore mandates the CMS PWG to rewrite and update this policy chapter, bringing a draft voting paper to conference no later than Autumn 2026.

BACKGROUND

SOC Note: the background for this motion is located at Appendix 3

E12

ENABLING MOTION FOR INDUSTRY AND JOBS POLICIES

Edward Green*, Alex Page, Graham Tavener, Farris Wilson, Jeremy Parker, Sebastien Hine

SYNOPSIS

This motion proposes changes to the PSS to emphasize dismantling polluting industries, specifying accelerated green-industrialization mechanisms, and extending solutions across supply chains and to ecological sources. It aims for a complete fossil fuel phase-out, ensuring just transitions without harming developing countries, and investing in sustainable technical and societal solutions.

MOTION

Conference instructs Policy Development Committee to facilitate policy development, which will be delegated to the Industry and Jobs Policy Working Group, with a view to bringing a Draft Voting Paper and Voting Paper to future conferences that aim to amend current policies that impact on Industry and Jobs.

This will involve making changes to chapters of the PSS, that may include, but not be limited to: Workers Rights & Employment, Science and Technology, Finance & Economy, Climate Emergency, Energy, and Land. The drafting will be delegated to the Industry and Jobs Policy Working Group.

The Industry and Jobs Policy Working Group will seek the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with interest or expertise in these fields, as well as the views of external and other relevant organisations, including those of the Green Parties of Scotland and Northern Ireland, professionals in the field, and all policy working groups. In addition to the objectives outlined in the Synopsis this working group will consider and formulate the following additional amendments:

 Replace minimize with complete phase out, to accurately outline our ambition and confidence in the proven technologies that will eventually bring us into carbon negativity.

- Remove or replace demand reduction as this is putting a burden on the consumer when we want to be putting the burden on the reckless and profit only driven producers. Additionally we must strengthen policy so that our taxes that reduce resource use are guaranteed to not disproportionately disadvantage the poorest in society (globally). As well as acceptance (on a psychological analysis level) of profit driven culture and outline mechanisms to steer us to social and ecological prioritisation.
- Replace reduce scale with replace methods to complete phase out. Add manufacturing, recycling and waste disposal re-localisation and explore the best mechanisms to achieve this, specifying our commitments to nationalisation, subsidy investments or other solutions.
- Generally adapt language to be more confident: changing "if properly planned" to "when properly planned"

E13

ENABLING MOTION FOR THE REVISION OF THE PUBLIC ADMIN AND GOVERNMENT POLICY CHAPTER

Darren Yates*, Louis Hollingworth, Martin Blake, Lewis Campbell, Helen Hitchcock, Nate Higgins

SYNOPSIS

A new policy working group was formed at Summer Policy Fest in June 2024 to revise and update the Public Administration and Government chapter of Policies for a Sustainable Society.

MOTION

Conference instructs the policy working group to revise and update the current Public Administration and Government chapter, in consultation with Policy Development Committee, other policy working groups, special interest groups within the Party, and external stakeholders, bringing a draft voting paper to Conference no later than autumn 2026.

In line with the group's wish to refocus the priorities within this chapter, it has decided to rename itself the Democracy, Government and Constitution policy working group. Conference agrees that this would be a more appropriate title for the revised and updated policy chapter.

E14

ENABLING MOTION FOR CRIME AND JUSTICE POLICY VOTING PAPER

Ria Patel*, Megan Hector, Rowan McLaughlin, Dee Wilde-Walker, Owain Sutton, Alina Baczynska, Thomas Tyler, Hannah Spencer, Jane Leicester, Daniel Jerrome, Stephen Holman, Laurence Lustgarten, Dylan Lewis-Creser, Adam Pugh, Rowan Page, Emma Carter, Jane Mitchell

SYNOPSIS

The Crime and Justice section of the Policies for a Sustainable Society (PfSS) document was last updated in 1990, and substantial revisions are needed both to address the changed landscape of criminal justice and to present a more coherent, versatile vision of a Green justice system.

MOTION

The Crime and Justice section of the Policies for a Sustainable Society (PfSS) document was last updated in 1990. Large portions of it are now out of date, or have been superseded by more recent developments in both the law and in the social systems within which the law is embedded.

Conference recognises the need to revise this chapter and address both the changed landscape of criminal justice in England and Wales in the intervening 30+ years and to present a more coherent, versatile and (so far as is possible) future-proofed vision of a Green justice system.

Conference therefore instructs Policy Development Committee (PDC) to initiate a policy development process to rewrite and update this chapter.

This process will be undertaken by a Crime and Justice Policy Working Group (PWG) which should seek and welcome the input of members of the party with an interest or expertise in relevant fields, including other relevant working groups, as well as consulting wherever possible with relevant NGOs and professionals.

E15

ENABLING MOTION TO REWRITE THE EDUCATION CHAPTER

Education PWG: Julie Spriddle*, Esther Reeves, Philip Hood, Libby Hudson, Sebastien Hine, Georgina Wright

SYNOPSIS

The Education chapter of Policies for a Sustainable Society hasn't undergone a full review in over a decade. Many policies are now in need of updating, adding to, rewriting or re-discussing, including those relating to academies, assessment and the climate emergency.

MOTION

This Conference instructs the Policy Development Committee to initiate a policy development process to rewrite and update the whole Education chapter of the Policies for a Sustainable Society. The process will involve seeking the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with interest or expertise in relevant fields, as well as the views of other relevant organisations, academics and professionals.

E16

ENABLING MOTION TO SEEK APPROVAL FOR THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY WORKING GROUP TO PROCEED

International Development PWG: David Robinson*, Hannah T. McLellan, Vivien Lichtenstein, Jeremy D Parker, Ben Samuel, George Edgar

SYNOPSIS

The current International Chapter in Policies for a Sustainable Society received its last major update in March 2006, and its last recorded update was in 2019. A rewrite is required to reflect substantial changes to the international environment since then, not least to reflect developments such as the Paris Agreement,

SOC Note: synopsis word limit reached

MOTION

This Conference instructs the Policy Development Committee to initiate a policy development process to rewrite and update the International Chapter of the Policies for a Sustainable Society with a view to bringing a Draft Voting Paper and Voting Paper to future conferences that aim to amend current policies that impact on international development and relations.

The process will be undertaken by the International Development Policy Working Group who will refer to the core values and philosophical basis of GPEW and seek the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with interest or expertise in this area and other related fields.

Liaison and reference will be made to other relevant GPEW policy working groups where appropriate, such as the Peace, Security and Defence PWG and the Europe PWG, which are already represented on IDPWG.

Views of other relevant organisations and professionals will also be sought and referenced in the background paper brought back to Conference.

This Enabling Motion will be valid for two years from the date on which Conference approves it, time for IDPWG to undertake this work, after which time extension of the work will require further approval.

E17

FREEPORTS

East Midlands GP: Carl Benfield*, Debra Cooper, Paul Freeman, Heather Gilbert, Greg Simpson, Martin Blake, Darren Yates, Colin Boyle, Ben Gray

SYNOPSIS

I am intending proposing a motion for the Party to take a well articulated position on Freeports. After a reasonable level of investigation into the East Midlands Freeport in my Constituency, it is clear that the concerns apply across the whole of the UK. The lack of transparency, dubious economic

SOC Note: synopsis word limit reached

MOTION

Insert into the Record of Policy Statements:

The Green Party opposes the introduction of Freeports and Special Economic Zones across the United Kingdom. Introduction of these areas displaces economic activity from elsewhere and reduces tax revenue that is so desperately needed by our public services. The lack of transparency in decision making and reductions in environmental, planning and employment legislation are all reasons that should alarm every UK citizen.

E18

GPEW AND THE GLOBAL CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

Peter Allen*, Peter Murry, Helen Bidwell, Matthew Firth, Joanna Collins, Jay Ginn, Jenni Chan, Nicole Haydock, Jane Reynolds, Danny McNamara, John Payne, George Czernuszka

SYNOPSIS

The GPEW to be better prepared to campaign about the Global Climate and Ecological Emergency (GCEE).

MOTION

Conference reaffirms the views expressed in the Climate Emergency chapter of PFSS that "The Climate Emergency is the greatest issue of our time. It is a global crisis demanding a global response" and that "The UK should play a leading role by strengthening international agreements and rapidly reducing its own emissions". **(CC001)**

Conference also reaffirms the view set out in the Core Values Statement that

"Electoral politics is not the only way to achieve change in society" (from 10th core value)

Conference believes that all governments, including the UK and its 4 nations will only honour the commitments made at Paris and subsequently and take the necessary action to address the Global Climate and Ecological Emergency if they are placed under sufficient pressure from their citizens to do so.

Conference therefore calls on the Green Party Executive Committee, all internally elected members and our Members of Parliament to prioritise the use of the party's resources to build a campaign to demand that our government adequately responds to the GCEE, working with other organisations and individuals at local party level, regionally and at all levels of governance.

Conference also calls on GPEX and the International Committee to prioritise promoting co-operation with The European Green Party and Global Greens to build an effective global campaign to combat the GCEE, focussing on future global summits, including COP.

Conference resolves to add the following to the Climate Emergency Chapter of Policies for a Sustainable Future:

New CC015 and subsequent renumbering:

The GPEW should seek to work with other organisations and individuals to demand that our government takes effective action in response to the Global Climate and Emergency. The GPEW should also seek to work with The European Green Party and Global Greens to help build an effective global climate action movement, with a focus on future global summits, including COP.

BACKGROUND

SOC Note: the background for this motion is located at Appendix 5

E19

GREEN RAIL STRATEGY FOR THE MIDLANDS AND THE NORTH

Jake Welsh*, Avery Atkin-Withers, Joe Hudson-Small, Gareth Dennis, Will Jennings, Pete Johnson, Peter Brommer, Fiona Aviani-Bartram, James Nelson, Joe Lever, Mike McTimoney, Emma Garnett, Helen Hitchcock, Philip Davies, Alexander Sallons, James Crawford, Patrick McAllister, Andrew Browne, Katie Fenn, Meg Shepherd-Foster, Alan Francis, Nick Hartley, James Thorniley, Martin Farley, Daniel Humphreys, Adam Turner, Sam Easterby-Smith, Owain Sutton, Neil O'Doherty, Alex Nettle, Jaspreet Tehara, Mark Whiley, Martin Osborne, Darren Yates, Rob Freeman, Emma Dungey-Betts, Nicole Freeman, Billie Nagle, Sarah Warren, Olli Watkins

SYNOPSIS

This motion calls for HS2 to be funded and completed in full, including the entire Eastern leg and an underground through station at Manchester Piccadilly as well as the 11 platforms at London Euston. This motion also calls for the full potential of HS2 to be by building in full

MOTION

In Record of Policy Statements (RoPS) delete the sections "High Speed Rail" and "Stop HS2"

Then add into RoPS:

"The Green Party recognises the need to shift transport mode share away from cars and flights in order to tackle emissions from transportation and that electric high speed rail lines such as HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail can play an important role in achieving this. High speed rail lines free up capacity on other rail lines that serve regional and local rail services allowing for more frequent trains to run on these lines. High speed rail lines themselves reduce domestic flights and car journeys for long distance travel because they can better compete for shorter journey times.

The Green Party recognises that the first phase of HS2 between London and Birmingham is well under construction. Both Phase 2a and Phase 2b of HS2 were cancelled by the Conservative government in 2023. If HS2 is not built in full to Manchester and Leeds it will not achieve the maximum capacity release on the rail network, it will limit environmental gains and could potentially widen regional inequality. The Green Party calls for the government to fund and build HS2 including the entire Eastern leg to Leeds, an underground through station at Manchester Piccadilly, 11 platforms at London Euston, the Golborne Link (or a better replacement) which enables HS2 services to be easily used on parts of the existing West Coast Main Line to Lancashire, Cumbria and Scotland as well as the originally planned bicycle routes alongside parts of the HS2 route accordance with existing Green Party policy.

The Green Party calls for the impact of HS2 to be improved further by funding and building Northern Powerhouse Rail which includes a high speed rail line from Liverpool to Manchester and onwards to Bradford and Leeds. This will use HS2 infrastructure in Manchester including potentially sharing the underground HS2 station at Manchester Piccadilly. The Green Party calls for HS2 services to be extended to Liverpool using Northern Powerhouse Rail infrastructure around Liverpool."

E20

GREYHOUND RACING BAN

Diana Newson*, Deanna Nicholson, Linda Newbery, Harry Bryan, Abi Freshwater, Anne Elliott-Day, Mandy Rossi, Jack Owens, Nick Newson, John Davis, Eve Allsop, Emma Randall, Brenda Dennett, Mary Meechan, Jane Alexander, Adrian Brock, Ronnie Lee, David Collins, Diane Maybey, Andrew Collingwood, Gilda Davis, Kefentse Dennis, David Robinson, Charlotte Houltram, Vincent Forde, Norma Saunders, P Smith, Simon Hughes, David Ikan-Pearce, Alison Taylor, Skye Dundas, Luke Doherty, Lance Symonds, Debbie Charman, Rowan McLaughlin, Autumn Barkley, Reece Learmouth, Elaine Hey, Catherine Bunting

SYNOPSIS

AR428 ends animal exploitation in commercial racing. As amended, AR428 explicitly bans the greyhound-racing industry (over 3–5 years) to prevent injuries, deaths and wastage of dogs. Many groups, RSPCA, Dogs Trust and Blue Cross now support a ban – and a "ban greyhound racing" bill from a Green MSP is

SOC Note: synopsis word limit reached

MOTION

AR428 (current policy) reads: The Green Party will end the exploitation of animals in horse racing, greyhound racing and all situations where animals are commercially raced. There would be an immediate ban on the use of the whip in horse racing and in jumps racing, and on the use of a non-linear track in greyhound racing. A single regulatory authority would be put in place for each sport, tasked with establishing and enforcing strict welfare standards. There would be a requirement for full traceability of all animals involved in racing throughout their lives (using microchip technology where applicable) and full publication of injury and death statistics. These statistics would be used as evidence to close dangerous tracks and ban trainers with poor records. Breeding and import of animals for racing will be tightly regulated and monitored to improve welfare and prevent over-breeding. There would be regulation on the conditions and times of transportation of animals used in sport as well as the housing of all animals. A high level of compulsory levy would be imposed on all betting, to be used solely for welfare improvements.

Remove some words/rearrange for sense, put mention of greyhounds in the second paragraph and break the list of tasks into bullet points for clarity so that the amended policy reads:

AR428: The Green Party will end the exploitation of animals in all situations where animals are commercially raced. There will be an immediate ban on the whip in horse racing. A high compulsory levy will be imposed on all betting, to be used solely for welfare improvements. A single regulatory authority will be put in place for each industry, tasked with:

- establishing and enforcing strict welfare standards
- enforcing full traceability of all animals throughout their lives (using microchip technology where applicable)

- full publication of injury and death statistics to be used as evidence to close dangerous tracks and ban trainers with poor records
- tightly regulating and monitoring breeding and import of animals to improve welfare and prevent overbreeding
- regulating conditions and times of transportation of animals as well as animal housing.

A Green Government will ban greyhound racing. This will be carried out gradually, over three to five years, to reduce the probability of shelters being overwhelmed, beginning with a reduction in the import and breeding of racing dogs. The ban will help alleviate the suffering of dogs in the greyhound racing industry and contribute to measures aimed at reducing problem gambling. The Green Party will stop advertising and broadcasting greyhound racing on media platforms within 12 months. A high compulsory levy will be imposed on all greyhound racing betting, to be used solely for greyhound welfare, homing and industry wind-down. The Green Party will aim to support those persons deemed dependent on the industry through a "just transition" approach.

BACKGROUND

SOC Note: a link to a briefing paper for this motion is given below:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=22af7dc5-c8d9-4150-9432-27ff886b5f09&hash sha1=cd10d38e

E21

IMPROVING TRANS POLICY ON NON-BINARY IDENTITIES

Kathryn Bristow*, Kyra MacDonald, Richard Green, Simon Hales, Dylan Lewis-Creser, Cade Hatton, Clare Hartland, Demetrius Williams, Benali Hamdache, Esme Hay, Kris Stewart, Ellie Freeman, Daniel Humphreys, Rowan Page, Abigail Finch, Felicity Cullen

SYNOPSIS

Currently our transgender policy categorises non-binary identities differently to other genders, which non-binary people can find othering, this motion seeks to update the language to be more inclusive.

MOTION

Current text:

RR530 The Green Party recognises that there are many gender identities that are within, and outside of, the traditional gender binary of man and woman. The Green Party recognises that trans men are men, trans women are women, and that non-binary identities exist and are valid. We shall respect transgender and non-binary people's identities as real. The Green Party shall include, and push for further acceptance of, transgender and non-binary people within all areas of society.

Delete "that non-binary identities exist and are valid"

And replace with "non-binary people are non-binary"

So it reads as:

RR530 The Green Party recognises that there are many gender identities that are within, and outside of, the traditional gender binary of man and woman. The Green Party recognises that trans men are men, trans women are women, and non-binary people are non-binary. We shall respect transgender and non-binary people's identities as real. The Green Party shall include, and push for further acceptance of, transgender and non-binary people within all areas of society.

E22

RECOGNITION OF ISRAELI 'APARTHEID', ISRAEL'S 'GENOCIDE' AND SUPPORTING THE BDS MOVEMENT IN COMMUNICATIONS

Asma Alam*, Rezaul Karim, Ria Patel, Shabir Fazal, Paul Allender, Richard Green, Farris Wilson, Marcus Tucker, Antoinette Fernandez, Bill Linton, Mya Chowdhury, Kefentse Dennis, Jeremy Parker, Tuheen Huda, Paolo Granelli, Dorothy Stein, Graham Wroe, Ekua Bayunu, Matthew Broadley, Danny McNamara, Peter Murry, Aasiys Bora, Mona Adam, Jay Ginn, Aamenah Patel, Autumn Barkley, Syed M.F. Hasan, Imtiaz Ali, Hans Zollinger-Ball, Farris Wilson, Nicola Payne, Maroof Raouf, Halima Brewer, Jeremy Spyby-Steanson, Mark Keir, Emma Dungey-Betts, Kathryn Bristow

SYNOPSIS

The Green Party reaffirms its commitment to international law and promoting equality and human rights of the Palestinian people. This motion seeks to establish clear policy positions with our communications reflecting the party's unequivocal solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for self-determination, liberation, and equality.

MOTION

Insert the following into our Record of Policy Statements

1. Recognise Israeli Regime as an "Apartheid" and Amend Policies for a Sustainable Society in the International Section following IP634:

The Green Party recognises and condemns Israel's policies as apartheid, based on international treaty and customary law, including, most notably, but not limited to:

- International Convention on Apartheid (1973) and Rome Statute (1998): Israel's practices, including extrajudicial killings, severe movement restrictions, discriminatory laws, and economic exploitation, align with apartheid definitions.
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965): Israel's racial segregation and discrimination violate this treaty, which Israel ratified in 1979.

 We call for an end to all forms of apartheid and equal rights for all. The term "apartheid" accurately describes the institutionalised regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over another, as identified by international human rights bodies and legal experts.
- 2. Recognise Israel's Genocide and Use the term "Genocide":

The Green Party condemns genocide per the UN Genocide Convention (1948):

• Acts qualifying as genocide: Israeli military operations causing civilian deaths, severe mental and physical harm, life conditions threatening Palestinian survival, and policies disrupting Palestinian family life and heritage.

As of 2024, the systematic violence and restrictions on Palestinians meet the criteria for genocide. This motion ensures our positions comply with international law and our commitment to justice and human rights.

3. Affirm Green Party's Support for the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) Movement:

The Green Party should have included its explicit support for the BDS Palestine Movement in the 2024 manifesto. We affirm our commitment to explicitly supporting BDS in our internal and external communications going forward. Supporting the BDS movement is essential to holding Israel accountable, to supporting Palestinians' rights to equality and self-determination, and to demonstrating that our support, as a nation, is not performative. Israel should not be able to profit from its apartheid regime or its unlawful occupation of Palestinian land. If the UK Government has learned anything from its failure to support BDS during South African Apartheid, it must be that the impact of applying political pressure is nothing without an economic response. Anti-apartheid promises are hollow if nothing is done to reform the institutions that fund apartheid regimes. The UK Government must not make the same mistakes again.

E23

NEW DEAL FOR CARERS

Thomas Atkin-Withers*, Avery Atkin-Withers, Willow Morris, Alexander Sallons, Mina Cousins, Angela Argenzio, Dylan Lewis-Creser, Alexi Dimond, Kim Perry, Colin McCulloh, Chloe Cheeseman, Helen Hitchcock, Philip Davies, Lauren Jones, Elliott Lee

SYNOPSIS

Carers save the UK economy billions a year, it's about time they got a fair deal. This motion would specify what changes we would make to unpaid carers lives in the UK.

MOTION

The Green Party believes that:

- Carers, including young carers, deserve a better deal from the government and that supporting carers of all ages is
- To do this the current carers allowance payment needs to be increased to a living wage for the hours of care provided
- Carers should have the right to be compensated by government, supported in education and be provided with respite written into law

Conference instructs the Green Party to:

- Support the increase of Carers Allowance to a living wage for unpaid care provided, including by young carers, and supports an end to means testing and the removal of parts of the cared for persons welfare payments.
- Support a change in the eligibility for Carers Allowance, reducing the amount of hours of care required to from 35 to 20, and allowing any carer to claim carers allowance, regardless of employment, education or training status.
- Acknowledge that carers who are members of one or more marginalised groups are more likely to suffer social, economic and health effects due to their caring.
- To support a mandate in law that all schools must have a 'Designated Young Carers Lead' to provide support.

- Recognise the challenges carers of all ages face in regards to mental health and demand more frequent wellbeing
 appointments with Carers to check on their mental and physical health and more support for public sector
 organisations such as schools to signpost better mental health support for carers
- Recognise there is a lack of training around consulting and informing carers on patient care at all levels of the NHS
 and social care, and therefore support making funds available for mandated carers training in all patient-facing roles
 in the NHS and Social Care, including around Hospital Discharge and End-of-life care.
- Support the writing into law of a carers right to respite and short breaks from caring, such as those seen in the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, whilst insuring the cared for person will be looked after in their usual setting.
- Support the campaign by Carers UK to make Carer Status the 10th protected characteristic.

BACKGROUND

The cost-of-living crisis is disproportionately affecting unpaid carers. Carers UK estimates that the number of unpaid carers has risen to 10.6 million, meaning 1 in 5 adults and 1 in 12 young people care for those around them. People of colour, disabled people, elderly people, women and LGBTIQA+ people who care are impacted worse financially and socially. Unpaid care is worth £156bn a year whilst austerity cuts to social care are massively affecting unpaid carers. To add insult to injury, Carers Allowance is means tested, is unavailable to under 16's and those in full time education and is removed from the cared for persons welfare payments.

The Young Greens passed a similar motion at their 2023 Winter General Meeting, voting 23 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions.

E24

CASS AND GENDER IDENTITY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Shahrar Ali*, David Flint, Jenny Rust, Cee Alexander, Paul Milnes, Siobhan Scanlan, Linda Oubridge, Jon Lucas, Deborah Fink, Elizabeth Mansfield, Jay Ginn, Jessica Goldfinch, Chris Holt, Marcus Grant, Anne Baker, Sarah Bond, Brig Oubridge

SYNOPSIS

It's imperative that the Green Party have a clear, unequivocal public statement of support for the Cass Report Recommendations. Ahead of the General Elections, candidates will need a clear steer and confirmation of our respect for evidence-based medical due diligence. A statement was published on 16 April, already woefully late,

SOC Note: synopsis word limit reached

MOTION

Green Party statement:

This review is an important part of the process of improving healthcare for young people questioning their gender identity.

Hilary Cass rightly highlights the risks of prematurely prescribing unlicensed drugs without prior research on harms and benefits and that the focus needs to be on providing support and services which meet the holistic needs of each young person while building the evidence base on the effectiveness and impact of different approaches.

We agree with Hilary Cass that the healthcare approach should be broadened to help the growing number of children and young people who are looking for support from the NHS to help them to manage their reported gender distress.

It makes many sensible observations and recommendations:

- Developing the evidence base
- A holistic approach to considering each young person's needs in the round
- The harm caused by excessive waiting times
- The need for more local and regional services, easier to access
- The importance of services operating to the same standard as other services for young people with complex needs
- More training on working with trans people across the NHS, not just for those working in gender services
- The importance of listening to children and their families, and treating them as individuals rather than a homogenous group
- Better continuity between children's and adults' services
- Sorting an issue with NHS numbers that mean the NHS loses all the previous medical records of someone once they've changed gender to accurately record sex throughout patient record.

This review is an important part of the process of improving healthcare for children and young people.

Thousands of young people have not been properly supported by NHS gender identity services, which must now embrace multidisciplinary, holistic healthcare, including psychological and psychopharmacological treatment approaches. We hope this review will be the beginning of moving forward.

BACKGROUND

1. The statement at end is based on a transcript of that ill-fated statement with some proposed amendments. Here's the original text (from Wayback machine):

Green Party statement on the Cass review | The Green Party (archive.org)

The news page still empty at time of this post was here News (greenparty.org.uk)

It is proposed that a statement for ROPS be voted on at conference, based on this draft but bolstered to make it clear that we endorse the approach and recommendations and to remove the reference to toxic debate (which though prevalent on one side, is not immediately relevant to the position). Useful materials since are the Cass FAQs which debunks some harmful misrepresentations (including as put out by the Kite Trust, Stonewall, Rainbow Greens (Scotland)) and links to other decent articles:

<u>Final report – FAQs – Cass Review</u>

<u>The Cass review of gender identity services marks a return to reason and evidence – it must be defended |</u>
<u>David Bell | The Guardian</u>

Interview What next after the Cass review? | Morning Star (morningstaronline.co.uk)

Below is the GP short-lived statement of 16 April, with some proposed draft amendments. It needs to be made more unequivocal. The price of failing to present a sound position on Cass will result in electoral liability or worse - see Scottish Greens implosion.

GREEN PARTY STATEMENT TO CASS REVIEW - [NEEDS TO BECOME GREEN PARTY SUPPORTS CASS RECOMMENDATIONS]

The Independent Review of Gender Identity Services for Children and Young People (The Cass Review) [1] was commissioned by NHS England and NHS Improvement in Autumn 2020 to make recommendations about the services provided by the NHS to children and young people who are questioning their gender identity or experiencing gender incongruence. Dr Hilary Cass, a former President of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, was appointed to chair the review.

E25

REAFFIRM THE UK'S COMMITMENT TO TIMELY CLIMATE ACTION

Climate Emergency PWG: Phil Horton*, Tony Cooke, Tony Firkins, Nadine Storey, John McClintock, Pamela Harling

SYNOPSIS

Current climate policy aligns with the Paris Agreement and United Nations processes. This motion proposes loosening our policy links to those agreements and states that the UK will accelerate climate action independently. This does not negate our internationalist view but recognises that current approaches will not deliver quickly enough.

MOTION

Changes to The Climate Emergency, Local Planning and the Built Environment, and Food and Agriculture chapters of Policies for a Sustainable Society (PSS) as follows:

CC013: Delete "and can only be tackled by global action. Such action must be based on the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and especially on the Paris Agreement of 2015 (which the UK has ratified) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)."

Insert "continue to" after "We" in the second sentence.

Insert additional sentences "However, we recognise the failure of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process to deliver the required rapid reductions in emissions to achieve those aims. GPEW would therefore seek to work with willing partners to ensure the UK takes a lead in demonstrating the technical and societal changes required to face this existential threat."

So that CC013 reads:

CC013: The Climate Emergency is a global problem. We continue to support the aims of the Paris Agreement to hold "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above preindustrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels". However, we recognise the failure of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process to deliver the required rapid reductions in emissions to achieve those aims. GPEW would therefore seek to work with willing partners to ensure the UK takes a lead in demonstrating the technical and societal changes required to face this existential threat.

CC014: Delete the list of actions and replace with the following so that CC014 reads:

CC014: As a rich country that was the first to industrialise and a major emitter of greenhouse gases over many decades the UK bears a particular responsibility. It should:

- 1. Recognise that, regardless of international targets being missed, every fraction of a degree temperature increase matters, and legislate accordingly.
- 2. Work sector by sector to deliver against its Paris Agreement commitments through ambitious policies on emissions reductions, climate finance, capacity building and technology transfer that focus on the need to act immediately.
- 3. Pay compensation for climate-related loss and damage, making this a key element of delivering international action and equity.
- 4. Advocate an emergency international agreement to conserve and enhance carbon sinks and reservoirs including forests, peatfields and coastal and estuarine areas, and demonstrate real action within the UK.
- 5. Reduce, the emissions associated with its imports by restricting the import of high carbon goods.
- 6. Support the Sustainable Development Goals with the exception of Goal 8 that we do not support in its entirety due to its emphasis on economic growth (see PB106).

CC016: for clarity, insert "on a consumption basis" at the end of the first sentence so that CC016 reads:

CC016: The UK should target eliminating all carbon dioxide emissions within 10 years on a consumption basis. The Green Party of England and Wales will continue to develop a policy package that will reduce the UK's production and consumption greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible. Updates on targets and forecasts will be recorded in Record of Policy Statements, Green Party manifestos and reports to conference

CC110: to ensure there is deliverable oversight of climate policies, alter the list of actions in CC110 to move from a Climate Change Agency to a Wellbeing of Future Generations approach, as successfully delivered in Wales as follows:

In Item (1) delete "need to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C, respect for" and replace with "latest"

In item (1) delete "equity" and replace with "global equity, and the principles included in (CC014)"

In Item (1) replace "Committee on Climate Change" with "Climate Change Committee"

Delete item (2) and replace with "Require all Government policies to take account of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and to ensure impacts on the environment, society and intergenerational equity are considered."

In item (3) insert ", industrial sectors" after "public bodies"

Add to the end of Item (3) ", with sectoral limits set by the Climate Change Committee."

Insert item (1) "Introduce a UK equivalent to the Welsh Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, to enshrine in law the need to make decisions for the long-term benefit of humanity." and renumber.

so that CC110 reads:

CC110: For clear accountability the UK should:

- 1. Introduce a UK equivalent to the Welsh Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, to enshrine in law the need to make decisions for the long-term benefit of humanity.
- 2. Strengthen the Climate Change Act to require the Climate Change Committee to set budgets on the basis of the latest climate science and global equity, and the principles included in (CC014).

- 3. Require all Government policies to take account of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and to ensure impacts on the environment, society and intergenerational equity are considered.
- 4. Require all public bodies, industrial sectors and businesses to define their own adaptation plans and Locally-Determined Contributions (LDCs) to climate change mitigation, with sectoral limits set by the Climate Change Committee.

LP403 and FA301, replace "net zero" with "zero" for clarity so that they read:

LP403: A sustainable built environment will be achieved through planning by creating places that facilitate a zero carbon, circular economy, with actions to mitigate and adapt to the climate emergency, to reduce our ecological footprint to a 'one planet' level, and to address more localised problems such as flooding, severe weather events, and heat islands. Local plans should integrate with national and bioregional/regional energy plans.

FA301: Food, Agriculture and Climate Change – climate change is the most profound challenge facing the planet. Agriculture and food production account for some 10% of UK greenhouse gas emissions. Soil is the most important carbon store in the UK.

- All farmers will be supported through advice and guidance to manage their farms to reduce GHG emissions to zero
 as set out in CC015. Carbon sequestration will be one of the outcomes to attract payment under the revised farming
 support scheme.
- We will set rigorous targets for GHG reductions, to reduce emissions to zero as set out in CC015 across the Food and Agriculture System to cover farms and the whole supply, manufacturing and distribution system including imports.

BACKGROUND

SOC Note: there is a link included to the briefing paper for this motion below:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=22ae7200-efee-485e-ab7a-9073541a5b3a&hash sha1=75aec9a8

E26

REFORMING TRANS HEALTHCARE

Cade Hatton*, Katie Fenn, Andrea Grainger, Kimberley Milham, Rachel Collinson, Kris Stewart, Autumn Barkley, Kyra MacDonald, Daniel Humphreys, Kathryn Bristow, Kris Stewart, Richard Green, RoseMary Warrington, Brennan Jacobs-Holden, Zack Polanski, Skye Dundas, Adam Turner, Alina Baczynska, Emma Dungey-Betts

SYNOPSIS

The Green Party has stood in support of Transgender people for a long time. Our trans healthcare policy is long out of date and supports the continued segregation of trans members. This policy would bring us into the 21st century and provide much needed support to all trans people.

MOTION

The current policy reads as following:

RR532 The process of transitioning through the NHS should empower rather than demean trans people. Gender Identity Clinics should consult service users on how to better recognise trans people's own expertise and experience in service provision.

RR533 The NHS should better recognise the increasing need for Gender Identity Clinics and increase service provision, across the country

RR534 The NHS should remove barriers to accessing services for trans people, with thorough review of access to services for Children and Young People and for those who have self prescribed or self funded gender treatment in the UK or abroad

We would remove these 3 policy statements and instead add:

RR532 The process of transitioning through the NHS should empower rather than demean trans people. Segregated healthcare does not empower anyone. The Green Party calls for a desegregation of transgender healthcare. This does not only include transition, but the ongoing treatment of transgender patients.

RR533: The Green Party supports an informed consent system within primary care. We call for Gender Identity Clinics (GICs) to be closed, and instead for GPs to be provided the proper training and support to prescribe gender affirming treatments such as hormone replacement treatment, as GPs already prescribe to cisgender patients, and be able to refer transgender patients to further treatment such as supportive therapists and surgeons, bringing the NHS in line with standard practice in many other countries.

RR534: We recognise that waiting lists for NHS GICs are longer than for any other form of healthcare in the UK and that these elongated wait times, both for care to begin and for further appointments, has lead to the deaths of many trans people, especially young trans people, and have led many others to self-medicate. Moving this care to primary care doctors would reduce this wait time to manageable levels, while still ensuring proper oversight and review. The process of transition may require medical assistance to achieve a positive outcome, but this should be centred on the individual's informed choices as many other healthcare concerns are; such as abortion care and contraception.

RR535: The Green Party calls for the support provided by the NHS to be expanded; to include a wider range of gender affirming treatments, and for ongoing fertility preservation, such as long term gamete storage, for everyone who wants it. The Green Party supports bodily autonomy for all, not just those who can afford it. We also support the many transgender patients who do not undergo specific treatments and still need access to cervical screening, abortion care, contraceptive care, and other 'gendered' healthcare- while allowing them the dignity of being referred to and supported in the way they desire. We call for an overhaul of the way the NHS records and refers to trans patients as they transition.

RR536: We call for transgender people to be treated with dignity and respect when accessing NHS services; including when this is not related to transition. This should be patient led. Many trangender people find that their health needs are not listened to and understood, or are linked to their transition with no medical relevance. We call upon the NHS to involve transgender people when reviews of best practice are made.

RR537 The NHS should remove barriers to accessing services for trans people, with thorough, independent review of access to services for Children and Young People - that includes and prioritises trans voices. We support children and young people who wish to transition socially without requiring input or medicalisation, and treatment that supports and respects their identity before they are too old to benefit from it. We support the use of puberty blockers, for those who are of a relevant age. Gillick Competency should continue to be recognised and utilised for appropriate use of hormones and other treatments. Not only does this give young people the space to decide what their future will look like, it reduces the need for many surgeries and other interventions as adults.

RR538: We call for those who have self medicated or self funded gender treatment in the UK or abroad to receive proper care and treatment without judgement, so that their ongoing treatment can be supported and reviewed.

RR539: Conversion therapy is one of the most dangerous forms of coercive behaviour forced upon trans people, especially trans youth, and leads to depression, detransition, and suicide. We call for a comprehensive ban of all conversion therapy, for all members of the LGBTIQA+ community.

RR540: We also call for a full, public, independent inquiry, supported by Parliament, and lead by transgender experts, of past actions by the NHS in gender related healthcare, to best support those who have gone through harmful, damaging processes, including conversion therapy. This includes a review of individual practitioners, management, and the influence of governments and media to the formation of treatment plans.

RR541: We seek to support those who have medically transitioned and then detransitioned, to better understand the reasons and the impacts this may cause. While regret rates for trans affirming healthcare is the lowest of almost all forms of healthcare, and the detransition rate is very low, it is important that these members of the trans community are not forgotten, and are given proper support and care.

Renumber the further parts of the Trans Rights policy section as appropriate.

NOTES: We are still finalising our background paper on this motion. We are open to constructive critisism; please be mindful of how you present that critisism. The best place to provide this is via email info@lgbtiqa.greenparty.org.uk

E27

RESPONSE TO THE CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON NET ZERO GOVERNANCE

Anne Gayfer*, Ray Harding, Martin Blake, Adrian Spurrell

SYNOPSIS

This response was posted on the Interim Policy forum in October 2022, but it did not go to a subsequent conference. There were no amendments made to the response on the forum, so the letter stands in its original form for inclusion in the PSS, as a record of policy.

MOTION

Conference in requested to approve this response, as a record of Green Party policy.

SOC Note: in the interests of preventing the Agenda document from becoming excessively large and in order to save on printing costs, SOC here includes a link to a PDF of this response:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=c9948832-0489-435f-9aef-12296366b759&hash_sha1=050b61f9

SET UP A POST-BREXIT CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION

Tony Cooke, Linda Rogers, Meg Shepherd-Foster, Ian Chandler, James Woodcock, Simon Avery, Anthony Slaughter, Dan Reynolds, David Murphy, Kenneth Barker, Kate Dumbleton, Verity Allely, Fiona Davies, Roy Davies, Lee Lavery, Paul Rock, Ed Bridges, Gethin Matthews, Kerry Vosper, Benedict Bond, Adam Turner, Penny Owen

SYNOPSIS

At the last Policy Fest event the Wales Green Party Policy Committee led a lively session about the UK Constitutional issues since Brexit. We discussed the fact that post-Brexit centralising agendas had been followed and, for example, devolved policy in Wales had been undermined by the Internal Market bill.

The

SOC Note: synopsis word limit reached

MOTION

The Green Party of England and Wales calls for the setting up of a Constitutional Commission to revisit and update the Constitutional settlement in the UK, including devolution, the nature of citizenship and the need for a written constitution to guarantee rights.

E29

SUPPORTING 50S WOMEN CEDAWINLAW CAMPAIGN

Jessica Goldfinch*, Anne Baker, Elizabeth Mansfield, Chris Holt, Cee Alexander, Raymond Obedencio, Maire Smith, Siobhan Scanlan, Susan Westlake, Kerri Edmondson, Sarah Bond, Sue Corner, Zoe Richards

BACKGROUND

SOC Note: the background for this motion is located at Appendix 6

SYNOPSIS

SOC Note: it was observed that the consequential portion of this motion was mistakenly located in the synopsis, which is not a part of the motion itself, and has adjusted accordingly given that the effect of the motion is otherwise clear.

MOTION

Preamble: Prior to the General Election the Green Party Women/ GPW committee voted unanimously to join the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) group supporting the 50s Women CEDAWinLAW campaign.

The ADR group was created by Sir George Howarth in 2023. It was a response to the CEDAWinLAW campaign and calls for 'Mediation' talks with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to right historical and current sex discrimination.

We think you will understand why we have chosen to support this campaign as part of this year's committee aims to #RaiseWomensVoices and we are not alone in the Green Party.

When she was Party Leader, Caroline Lucas joined the ADR group. In the run up to the general election many of our Prospective Parliamentary candidates (PPCs) pledged to support the campaign, including our Co-chair Tina Rothery and Treasurer Anne Baker.

This motion states the Green Party support for the "Supporting 50s Women CEDAWinLAW Campaign" and CEDAW GR40 and our MPs to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and Prime Minister to carry out ADR and propose an Early Day Motion, as necessary.

E30

YES TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT, NO TO GREENWASHING HS2

Joe Rukin*, Val Saunders, Natalie McVey, Carolyne Culver, Mel Moden, Richard Small, R Horton Kitchlew, Indra Francesco, Jamie Russell, Rosemary White, Anne Patterson, Steve Dawe, Nicky Packer, Aldo Mussi, Robert Palgrave, Pam Bellinger, Claire Barker, Jane Hutchings, Georgina Wright, Peter Harms, Jess Lee, Ali Gordon-Creed, Victoria Stinchcombe, Renate Aspden, Sonja Francis, Sarah Green, Mark Keir, Isabelle Detheridge, James Kennedy, Tom Adams, Jenny Langley, Jenny Jones, Larry Sanders, Ann Bednall, Adriana Newsom, Tina Burns, Marian Hoffman, Christina O'Neill, Steve Hale, Peter Briggs, Rob Barry, Helen Banks, Jeremy Parker, John Francis, Tom Fitton, Juliet Carter, Graham Lee, Suzanne Savage, Neil Savage, Clare Butler, Phil Wall, James Murray-White, Matt Lowe, Fiona Mawson, Mark Keir, Hilary Wendt, Colin Boyle, Leo Smith

SYNOPSIS

At Spring Conference of 2011, the Green Party passed policy TR11.3, to oppose HS2, which was to be reviewed if HS2 would reduce demand for transport, energy use, land take and CO2 emissions. On all of these tests, the case for HS2 has got worse and opposition should be renewed.

MOTION

In Record of Policy Statements (RoPS) add:

"The Green Party recognises that following the building of HS1, 'The Kent Principles' were drawn up to govern the building of any future high-speed railway line. These principles would seek to balance the needs of the environment, habitats, communities, and the railway. HS2 completely ignored these principles, and as such the design principles to build what was intended to be the fastest and for its length the most expensive railway in world history, have been set by the construction industry, seeking to maximise revenue. HS2 is a project designed with no sympathy for anything, other than profit and growth economics and as such must be opposed by The Green Party."

"The Green Party should not approach high-speed rail, or any other proposed project which the Party might support in principle, in a political vacuum, without looking at the real-world implementations and the effects of projects and policies."

"While the Green Party continues to support the idea of high-speed rail in principle, any such project should be designed with clear constraints from the outset based on the 'Kent Principles'. These should be: to run at a maximum of 200mph/320kph to minimise the impact to habitats, the natural environment and communities; to follow existing transport corridors where possible; to integrate into the existing rail network and have intermediate stations; and that any such project must be justified by a transport need and a clear ability to reduce carbon emissions, which must include a full assessment of all embedded carbon created during construction."

"The Green Party notes that In 2020, the Wildlife Trusts, in conjunction with the Woodland Trust, RSPB and National Trust produced a report which concluded HS2 would will risk the loss of, or significantly impact: 5 Wildlife refuges of international importance; 33 Sites of Special Scientific Interest; 693 Classified Local Wildlife Sites; 21 Designated Local Nature Reserves; 26 Large landscape-scale initiatives; 18 Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves; 108 Ancient woodlands; Other irreplaceable habitats such as veteran trees, wood pasture, old meadows; Extensive further areas of wider natural habitat; and that several scarce, protected and endangered wildlife species are under threat such as barn owls, white-clawed crayfish, willow tits and the lizard orchid. Rarities like dingy skipper may become locally extinct. The response from HS2 Ltd was that 'The Wildlife Trust report was inaccurate and misleading. The fight against climate change needs to be based on facts'."

"Furthermore, in 2023 the Wildlife Trusts reported that: HS2 Ltd had used inconsistent mapping and modelling; wild spaces and habitats were being undervalued; the benefits of new habitat creation was valued higher than existing established habitats; wildlife which was being trapped between construction areas was been ignored; many ponds had been only partially counted; huge numbers of trees and hedgerows which had been cut down were not counted at all; and the nature loss would be 7.9 times more than HS2 Ltd had accounted for. The response from the 'High Speed Rail Industry Leaders Group', (a vested interest lobbying group consisting mainly of the construction firms building HS2), was that the Wildlife Trust data was 'Untested' and 'Unsurveyed'."

"It is essential that the Green Party stands full square behind the Wildlife and Habitats policies of the party which have been passed at conference, and that the GPEW seeks to support the analysis of NGOs which exist for no other reason than to protect habitats, nature and wildlife in the face of corporate greenwashing from the construction industry. Failing to support such NGOs in such a situation would considerably damage the credibility and reputation of the Green Party, as well as the ongoing working relationship with such organisations."

"The construction industry has openly set up lobbying bodies, with the stated intention of dictating the political discourse around the HS2 project. This is one of the main reasons that HS" had support from other Westminster parties from the outset of the project, as lobbyists seek top build up political momentum behind projects when they are little more than a politically appealing slogan. As the Green Party continues to become more of a political force, we must be wary of specifically targeted lobbying efforts concerning projects, especially those which are lacking in specific detail, which would benefit from the perception that they are environmentally sound."

"All of the land which HS2 Ltd state they may require, whether it has been fenced-off or not, is currently covered by what is probably the largest single injunction ever seen in the UK. The Green Party believes that the criminalisation of being on such land represents an undemocratic attack on the right to peaceful protest, and it is high-handed actions like this, and the archaic way in which much of this land had been possessed by HS2 Ltd without even paying for it, which further demonstrate which the Green Party must oppose the HS2 project. Many non-violent protesters have been arrested, and some jailed and the Green Party praises the commitment of non-violent climate campaigners, eco-warriors and habitat defenders who have spent months in camps, tree houses and tunnels, attempting to prevent the destruction to the natural environment which has been caused by HS2. These protests include the UKs longest ever tunnel protest in Swynnerton which lasted 47 days, and a Euston tunnel protest of 31 days."

"Since 2010, the original HS2 budget of £33bn has spiralled out of control, whilst it's functionality, notably the link to HS1 and the Channel Tunnel has been cut. The current situation is that 13 years after HS2 was first proposed, there is still no workable solution for how it would get into Euston station, and whilst the Infrastructure and Projects

Authority have rated the HS2 project as 'amber-red' for many years, in July 2023 they reported that Phase 1 and 2a had returned to a 'red' rating, meaning 'Successful delivery of the project appears to be unachievable.'"

"We are in a climate emergency and HS2 does nothing but add carbon this decade, which is the all important decade to prevent runaway feed-back loops. In fact, due to the land take, loss of mature trees, and millions of tons of concrete and steel, when we factor in construction HS2 will never be carbon neutral. The way the carbon case concerning HS2 has been presented is of significant concern. Each of the three statutory carbon forecast presented by HS2 Ltd to Parliament, which have been drawn up using which are prepared in line with BS EN 15978 and BS EN 15804 (Sustainability of construction works) and PAS 2080 (Carbon management in infrastructure), have shown that even on a 120-year forecast HS2 would not reach carbon neutrality due to the embedded carbon of the construction process and minimal modal shift projections. However, this has not stopped HS2 Ltd, away from these statutory frameworks from expediently greenwashing HS2 as a 'Zero Carbon Railway' to the public. The case for HS2 is not supported by science. There are no independent assessments of carbon impact of embodied carbon, operational carbon, loss of trees and hedgerows, or scrutiny of the HS2 Ltd numbers of modal shift. It would be wrong to support any transport infrastructure project in the absence of these data."

"GPEW policy TR244 states that the Green Party believes that long-distance service provision should not concentrate on high speeds where this will affect local service provision or take up an excessive amount of limited resources. The Green Party supports the principle of a new north-south high speed line which would reduce the number of short-haul flights within the UK. HS2 costs have spiralled, with no-one knowing what a 'fully funded' HS2 project would cost to build (let alone subsidise the operation of), yet electrification projects have stalled, ticket offices are due to close across the country and rail workers are striking. It is abundantly clear that out of control spending on HS2 is already impacting on local service provision, long before it is due to open."

"HS2 represents business as usual economics, it is an enclosed system which will not reduce car use or flying, as it has been specially designed to aid airport expansion. The Chief Executives of both Birmingham and Manchester Airports have both gone on the record stating that they see HS2 as a mechanism to expand the number of international flights from their airports. Given the limited nature of HS2, it is far from certain that it would lead to a reduction in the number of internal flights."

"We cannot build our way to a sustainable environment, and as such the GPEW reaffirms opposition to the HS2 project."

E31

ZANE'S LAW

Natalie Bennett*, Adrian Briggs, Charlotte Rae, Jessica Goldfinch, Emily O'Brien, Charles Harris, Alex Geddis, Kate Souper, Debra Cooper, Linda Oubridge, Steve Trafford, Ben Samuel, Kerry Pickett, Tom Scott, Zack Polanski

SYNOPSIS

UK regulations on contaminated land are dangerously inadequate, especially given climate breakdown, rising sea levels, increased rainfall, and flooding. Zane's Law proposes measures to address this crisis. 7-year-old Zane Gbangbola tragically died when Hydrogen Cyanide was conducted by floodwater from a contaminated landfill site into his home, in February 2014.

MOTION

Conference notes that current UK regulations with regard to toxic waste disposal and the danger to human life, to our environment, and to the planet as a whole, from both historic landfill sites and currently approved landfill sites operating the 'dry tomb' principle, are dangerously inadequate. Especially so, in the face of climate breakdown, with rising sea levels, increased rainfall, and widespread flooding.

In 2014, 7-year-old Zane Gbangbola died, and his father was paralysed with a diagnosis of hydrogen cyanide (HCN) poisoning, during catastrophic flooding in the UK. It is understood that flood water passing through a historic landfill site carried HCN into Zane's home, detected there at high levels by the Fire and Rescue Services on the night of the tragedy. What happened that night is expected to be the subject of an Independent Panel Inquiry.

'Zane's Law' seeks to address the crisis of contaminated land, aligning the UK with global best practice for the protection of communities from hazardous land, reflecting the current concerns of the climate crisis, and reinstating legislative provisions removed by the government from the 1990 Environment Protection Act. The protection of citizens should be a primary government responsibility, as enshrined in the *Universal Right to a Healthy Environment*, endorsed by the UN General Assembly in July 2022.

Conference, therefore, fully supports the Truth About Zane Campaign's call for 'Zane's Law' which *proposes* that the following measures be adopted into legislation by Government, to prioritise the protection and safety of people and planet.

SOC Note: text struck through in blue has been found Out of Order for being vague

The Legislation if passed would likely include:

- 1. Each relevant Local Authority must keep a full, regularly updated Register of Land that may be contaminated within their boundary.
- 2. The Environment Agency must keep a full, public 'National Register of Contaminated Land' to be regularly updated by information from Local Authorities.
- 3. All above mentioned Registers of Land must be accessible and available for inspection by the General Public.
- 4. Relevant Local Authorities must fully inspect any land registered that may be contaminated and must fully remediate or enforce remediation of any land which poses harm to public safety, or which pollutes controlled waters*
- 5. Relevant Local Authorities must be responsible for inspecting *previously closed landfill* sites and fully remediating them, or enforcing their remediation when they pose a risk of significant harm to people or controlled waters.
- 6. The Government must *take full responsibility* for providing the necessary funds for Local Authorities to meet these new requirements, following the *'polluter pays'* principle: to recover costs as appropriate where those responsible for the pollution can be identified.

These measures are not all in place currently and would require significant investment and full funding from the Government to be implemented. Other statutory requirements (such as data protection provisions) would need be taken account of.

* Controlled waters are groundwater or surface water intended for human consumption

SECTION F

DRAFT VOTING PAPERS

F01

ECONOMY

Finance & Economy PWG: Peter Sims*, Nadine Storey, Sheridan Kates, Graham Brand, Laurence Lustgarten, Kevin Middleton, Vlad Cadar, Zaid Alasad, David Wild

SYNOPSIS

N/A

PAPER

SOC Note: in the interests of preventing the Agenda document from becoming excessively large and in order to save on printing costs, SOC here includes a link to a PDF of this DVP:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=0e56cc59-0a2d-47b6-9ca2e0a8e76b5565&hash sha1=b231674e

This process has been repeated for the background paper, found at the link below:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=6217fdab-c13e-4bdd-b1ee-0748238fcda8&hash_sha1=fb9233bc

F02

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Linda Freeman*, Stuart Jeffrey, Antony Lempert, Scott Inglis, Siobhan Scanlon, Rob Freeman, Pallavi Devulapalli, Katrina Davis, Tom Hathaway, Gay Lee, Robin Lerner, Sam Easterby-Smith, Liz McGregor, Lauren Jones, Ffion Jones, Logan Mills

SYNOPSIS

N/A

MOTION

SOC Note: in the interests of preventing the Agenda document from becoming excessively large and in order to save on printing costs, SOC here includes a link to a PDF of this DVP and its Annex:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?download=0&guid=b445124b-71e5-45c9-8e6f-522403052bca&hash sha1=47a38776

F03

MARINE AND COASTAL

Marine & Coastal PWG: Georgina Wright*, Phil Horton, Linda MacCallum-Stewart, Deolinda Eltringham, Benjamin J Howell, Joanna Collins, Susan Kerrison, Martin Blake, Libby Hudson, David Howdle-Smith

SYNOPSIS

At Autumn Conference 2022 the Marine and Coastal Policy Working Group, (M&C PWG) had the enabling motion passed to update, review and rewrite the M&C policy from 2012. The draft voting paper below is intended to be submitted for Autumn Conference 2024 and for the Full Voting Paper to be ready before Autumn Conference 2026.

Our aim is to continue to explore in depth the issues affecting marine and coastal areas, to keep up to date with the many changes occurring and to create principles and background ideas for policy statements. The current policy from 2012 with revision in 2019 is relevant in some areas but also out of date. We wish to have the depth and range needed for the future beyond 2030. We have consulted with coastal councillors, those with expertise in Fisheries, Food, Marine Protected Areas, legislation including rights of nature, marine pollution, and coastal challenges from climate change impacts.

In the current draft we have a new section that deals with biodiversity, establishing a blue carbon strategy, and implementation of the UN COP Biodiversity targets and protecting at least 30% of UK waters and the 30% of the high seas beyond any national jurisdiction. There are also updates on marine pollution and dredging and a new part of the recreational section on leisure boating.

MOTION

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This process has been repeated for the background paper, found at the link below:

https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/file/file/download?guid=68864167-4bd9-4cae-89b9-9d27b08a2bee&hash_sha1=45b5a2c4

F04

TRANSPORT

John Coyne*, David Wild, Angela Thomson, Alan Francis,

SYNOPSIS

108

MOTION

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: BACKGROUND FOR MOTION D17

Embracing consensus-based governance:

- **1. Principles of Consensus:** The Green Party acknowledges that consensus-based decision-making aligns with our core values of participatory democracy, social justice, and environmental sustainability. Embracing consensus ensures that decisions are made collectively, considering the perspectives and input of all members.
- **2. Inclusivity and Participation:** Consensus-based governance empowers all members to contribute to the decision-making process, creating a more inclusive and participatory environment within the party.

Implement consensus-building processes:

The Green Party Philosophical Basis encourages:

- **1. Facilitation of Dialogue:** implementing use of techniques and processes that encourage open dialogue, active listening, and respectful communication among members during decision-making discussions.
- **2. Conflict Resolution Mechanisms:** developing mechanisms for conflict resolution and mediation to address disagreements and ensure that consensus is reached through constructive dialogue and negotiation.
- **3. Consensus Building Tools:** Provision of training and resources on consensus-building tools and techniques to equip members with the skills necessary to engage in collaborative decision-making processes effectively.

Rationale: As outlined in the Green Party Manifesto 2024, we are dedicated to defending human rights, democracy, and justice. Implementing consensus-based governance internally aligns with our commitment to promoting a culture of collaboration, inclusivity, and mutual respect among members. This internal governance model reflects the democratic principles we advocate for in wider society.

By adopting consensus-based governance, the Green Party will:

Enhance Member Engagement: Encourage active participation from all members, fostering a sense of ownership in the party's direction and decision-making processes.

Strengthen Internal Democracy: Ensure that decisions are made collectively and reflect the diverse perspectives and interests of party members, promoting unity and cooperation.

Conclusion:

The adoption of consensus-based governance within the Green Party signifies a commitment to promoting a culture of collaboration, inclusivity, and mutual respect among members. By embracing consensus, the Party can strengthen its democratic ethos, enhance member engagement, and foster a sense of shared responsibility and ownership in decision-making processes.

APPENDIX 2: BACKGROUND FOR MOTION D20

The current Safe Spaces Policy, Constitutional Clause (5.xxii) and Code of Conduct clause referring to Safe Spaces (CoC 9.2), use undefined terms to limit speech and behaviour that are subjectively interpreted as bullying, harmful or oppressive.

Different groups within the party can be marginalised or excluded at different times and in different ways. An action designed to protect one group may further marginalise another. Unless the party creates a 'hierarchy of oppression', members must recognise that all groups with protected characteristics have the right to advocate for their own group; these fundamental party rights are detailed in para 206 of the ruling in the case Ali v Reason and Nott (Ali -v-Reason and Nott (judiciary.uk)).

This means a group may legitimately say things that are perceived as offensive by another group as part of robust debate aiming to serve everyone's needs. For example, secular members may offend religious groups or vice-versa.

Fundamental party rights "guarantee (amongst others) the rights of members of a political party to advocate for or against policies and positions adopted or proposed to be adopted by their party; criticise the beliefs or conduct of other members insofar as they are inconsistent with the policies and positions thus advocated, *even using language which their opponents might find offensive*; and to advocate and organise within the party to promote members who support the said policies and positions and against members who do not" See S Ali v Reason and Nott [para 206].

Our current Safe Spaces policy and similar party phrases within other policies specifically list a variety of forms of discrimination that will not be tolerated in the Party. This is right and good. Whilst the aims of these policies are laudable, their lack of definitions and failure to recognise fundamental party rights allow them to be weaponised to silence reasonable voices within the party. For example, there are no definitions or worked examples of what constitutes "hurt" within the Safe Spaces policy.

The Code of Conduct puts a duty on Chairs or Moderators of meetings to prevent or stop "discriminatory, oppressive or abusive behaviour", again without defining any of those categories or giving examples. There is no recognition that *perceptions* about which words or behaviours may meet those thresholds can differ considerably, nor that political debate and policy making by definition requires thorough exploration of sometimes contentious ideas.

The Code of Conduct policy states "Oppression is defined as the marginalisation of one social group for the benefit of another more powerful group". Party policy can only be debated and changed if all groups are permitted to fully debate their position without having their vocabulary removed due to the perception of some individuals that the language is offensive or exclusive.

A prior example from Conference:

Girls in areas where cultural practices include breast ironing or female genital mutilation are not seeking to oppress any other groups in their society and neither are party members who seek to advocate on behalf of these girls. At previous conferences, debate of these issues has been blocked, as members using language specific to these forms of female oppression have been silenced by use of Inclusion cards and claims that non-binary or trans members felt excluded, marginalised or oppressed. This is despite the fact that the language used was not "intended to hurt another physically or emotionally".

Discussion of issues specific to female members or females generally has been acrimonious in recent years but the Party has other areas of likely policy motions with potential to become equally contentious, e.g. on Israel and Gaza, where hurtful things may be said with no intention to harm or oppress others. The Safe Spaces policy itself says that the party is "committed to putting first the needs of those whose safety is compromised" but this is an unnecessarily vague statement and perceptions of safety and any compromise of that safety will vary between people. If we return to the action of chest ironing, whose safety is compromised? The girls subjected to this hideous practice, or another group who felt uncomfortable during a debate and perceived their safety to be compromised?

Our current Safe Spaces Policy and Reference to Safe Spaces in the Code of Conduct use loose terms without definitions. These ambiguous standards are being misapplied resulting in stymied debates and the silencing of some voices within the Party, including by suspension. There are nine protected characteristics listed in Equality Act 2010, each describing a different form of vulnerability. Sometimes, the needs or desires of one group will conflict with the needs or desires of another group and the Party must find a way to enable each group to advocate freely within the boundaries of the law.

In order to facilitate this, the party should use the expertise it already has to hand in the form of an experienced, employed EEDI Manager. Working with the E&D committee, he should create a 'best practice' document that can be adopted in the interim by GPRC and then ratified by Conference.

APPENDIX 3: BACKGROUND FOR MOTION E07

Hindutva is a political ideology invented in 1922 by Vinayak Savarkar. The ideology Hindutva is fundamentally about cleansing India of Islam and Muslims, 'equat[ing] Indianness with Hinduism' (Economist, 2024). 'The ideology of Hindutva propagates the supremacy of Hindus over religious minorities, denies the latter any special rights and enforces the idea of one nation, one religion, one language, and one culture' (LSE, 2024). Even when it comes to Hinduism itself, i.e. disregarding how Hindutva places Hinduism in a position of superiority in relation to India's many minorities, Hindutva presents a distorted view of things. Hinduism can never be reduced to just 'one culture' — it is one of the most dynamic, syncretic traditions in world history. Yet Hindutva ideologues seek to promote the idea of a uniform Hindu-ness that is detrimental, in particular, to women and low caste Hindus (and of course other faiths).

Speaking of "Hindu-ness" — that is indeed what Hindutva literally means. "-tva" is a Sanskrit suffix that translates to "-ness" or "the essence of". Thus, Savarkar smartly called his project Hindutva (or Hinduness) in order to make it easy to conflate his ideology Hindutva with the faith Hinduism. The result of this is that people that criticise Hindutva or the organisations around it can be groundlessly called anti-Hindu or Hinduphobic or accused of criticising Hinduism — even if they are proudly Hindu.

What we see in India is mass-radicalisation that has been carried out painstakingly over around 100 years by Hindutva ideologues. The main organisation behind this mass radicalisation is called the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), which became the grassroots organising vehicle for Hindutva. It used to be a fringe movement, but is now the largest far-right organisation in the world. The founders and foundational figures of the RSS were deeply inspired by the European fascist movements, openly fawning over Hitler and Mussolini. These are the roots of the RSS. Nathuram Godse, who assassinated Mahatma Gandhi, was an RSS member. Godse's stated reason for the act was that Gandhi supposedly betrayed his Hindu religion and culture by supporting Muslims. Godse, reviled for most of the past 75 years in India, is now revered amidst the mainstreaming of Hindutva in politics and society.

Prime Minister Modi is also a member of the RSS. In fact, India's ruling party the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) is nothing other than the political wing of the RSS with Hindutva as its official party ideology as per the Palampur resolution (Frontline, 2004).

The RSS is the head of a wide network or "family" of organisations called the Sangh Parivar (Family of the RSS). There is: the political wing the BJP; a militant wing that is implicated in organising pogroms called the VHP (Vishwa Hindu Parishad); a youth wing; a students wing; a women's wing; a wing for older people, and so on. Some of these wings, for example Sewa International, do some good things. The word "sewa", which translates as "service", is a beautiful Hindu concept of selfless service to benefit others without any expectation of reward. However the Sewa organisations affiliated with the RSS perform a whitewashing function for the RSS and even provide support for criminal acts. The Channel 4 exposé linked below features Jon Snow in 2002 presenting the results of an investigation into the charity Sewa International. After a devastating earthquake in Gujarat in 2001, Sewa International raised funds from ordinary British donors purportedly for disaster relief. However, it was later found to have been directing some of these funds to the VHP in India, which is reported to have been actively organising pogroms in the genocidal violence that broke out in Gujarat in 2002. It doesn't matter if some activities organised by organisations like Sewa are decent; the fact is that the entire RSS/BJP network of organisations exists to ultimately contribute towards their vision of a Hindu state (Hindu Rashtra). To this end these organisations have contributed towards the destruction of Muslim buildings and cultural aspects too, most famously the Babri Masjid, which was demolished by a Hindutva mob in 1992.

Just like Sewa, the BJP does some good things — but that doesn't mean that it is a party deserving of support. It isn't. The BJP is a party that is inherently at odds with human rights. Since being in power, the party has presided over the worst crackdowns on freedoms in India's independent history (barring a short period in the 1970s that was

reversed). US-based non-profit Freedom House downgraded India from a free democracy to a "partially free democracy". Sweden-based V-Dem Institute was harsher in its report on democracy, saying India had become an "electoral autocracy". India, described as a "flawed democracy", slipped two places to 53rd position in the latest Democracy Index published by The Economist Intelligence Unit.

Sources:

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https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/religionglobalsociety/2024/02/hindutva-is-at-war-with-secular-democracy-in-india/#:~:text=Secularism%20also%20supports%20democracy%2C%20the,one%20language%2C%20and%20one%20culture.

APPENDIX 4: BACKGROUND FOR MOTION E09

APPENDIX: Relevant Existing Green Party Policy

Green Party policy on clean air, vaccination, workers' and disabled people's rights and compassion towards vulnerable people, listed below, are all relevant to this issue. We propose a scientifically defensible policy statement on COVID and Long-COVID that coheres with our values and is a reasonable extension of existing Green Party policy.

Extracts from Existing Green Party Policy

"The Green Party believes that pollution reduces the range of choice for future generations, directly damages health, and reduces potential lifespan." [PL202]

"We believe that much more can be done in schools to prevent illness by caring for children, and educating children about health." [HE1707]

We believe that clean air is a human right that should be enshrined in law, and that everyone, especially every child, has a right to breathe clean air [Ella's Law]

"The Green Party supports vaccination as a primary means of preventing many diseases. All children should have a right to receive vaccines." [HE402]

"We believe that every worker has the right to a safe and healthy working environment. The Green Party would ensure that this right is protected in law." [WR470]

"We believe that willingness and ability to care for its vulnerable members are essential features of a compassionate society." [HE102]

"All Green Party policies are designed to promote the health of individuals, communities and society. Health for individuals is only possible in the context of a healthy environment and society. The healthy society is one which guarantees a safe and clean environment." [HE100]

"The Green Party supports research into healthcare at all levels, especially research into public health, epidemiology, nursing and community care." [HE1502]

"Where there is compelling evidence that incidence of an illness in society has a strong environmental factor, that illness shall be designated a notifiable disease. Cancer, asthma and ME/CFS shall be included on this list. This information shall form the basis of statistical research into the effects of polluting our air, water and food supply." [HE401]

"We are mindful that one fifth of the NHS clinical budget was devoted to treating illnesses caused by unemployment, inequality, poor housing and pollution, and that Green reforms in these sectors of the economy will reduce the load on the health service." [HE 1800]

"The Green Party demands an inclusive society. This does not mean integrating disabled people into a not yetdisabled world but means redefining society according to the perspectives of all people, not just the not yetdisabled." [DY 300]

APPENDIX 5: BACKGROUND FOR MOTION E18

Green Party members are aware that the planet is facing a Global Climate and Ecological Emergency.

A recent survey of the world's climate scientists found that nearly all of them thought that limiting global heating to 1.5C was unachievable, a large majority foresaw global heating of 2.5 C and nearly half foresaw global temperatures peaking at at least 3C. (1)

Meanwhile there is also a biodiversity crisis, with an estimated 1 million species threatened with extinction for climate change related reasons. (2)

The consequences of the above will be extremely severe, if not catastrophic, and will require co-ordinated global action to slow the rate at which predicted global heating takes place and to mitigate against its consequences, not least the hundreds of millions of climate refugees who are already beginning to move. (3)

This global action will have to be taken by the world's political leaders, politicians of UN member states. Given the urgency of the situation such actions will have to be taken by *existing world leaders* or their *immediate successors*. For the most part these are not politicians Greens would choose. However, we are unlikely to be able to replace them in time so *will have to make demands of them*.,

All politicians are subject to popular pressure, even those with do not have to face democratic elections. However, these same politicians are also subject to enormous pressure from fossil fuel interests and their financial backers and will only even begin to stand up to them if subject to comparable pressure from their voters and citizens.

There is therefore an urgent need for an effective international climate action campaign, capable of forcing leaders across the world to make effective and enforceable international climate action agreements to ensure humanity's future, based on principles of social and global justice, and drawing on the expertise of the world's best climate scientists.

Greens across the world, as members of their constituent parties but also as members of a global green movement, are well placed to contribute to building this international campaign, the focus of which would likely be international climate summits attended by world leaders, such as COPs. The GPEW, as the Green Party of the world's oldest fossil fuel polluter, should prioritise building this campaign, which is what this motion seeks to commit it to doing.

It is an initiative which would not be an alternative to its highly effective target to win electioneering but a necessary complement to it.

- (1) https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/may/08/world-scientists-climate-failure-survey-global-temperature?CMP=Share iOSApp Other
- (2) https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/five-drivers-nature-crisis
- (3) <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/aug/14/nomad-century-how-to-survive-the-climate-upheaval-by-gaia-vince-review-a-world-without-borders?CMP=Share iOSApp Other

APPENDIX 6: BACKGROUND FOR MOTION E29

Background information: What is the 50s Women CEDAWinLAW campaign about?

CEDAW stands for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. CEDAW is commonly referred to as the international bill of rights for women. It defines what constitutes discrimination against women and girls and sets out a comprehensive framework for tackling inequality.

In 2019, the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women advised the UK Government to "take effective measures to ensure that the increase in the State pension age from 60 to 66 does not have a discriminatory impact on women born in the 1950s."

When the UK government ratified CEDAW, it pledged to dismantle or avoid enacting laws or measures that adversely affect women more than men. The 50sWomen CEDAWinLAW campaign calls upon the Government to provide a financial remedy to 1950s-born women which they have neglected to do.

Historical sex discrimination.

Pension Inequality.

Women born in the 1950s have many faced challenges. The changes in the state pension age introduced by the then Tory government in 1995 has increased. These women, who often began work at age 15, were promised that they could claim their state pension at 60, but the age has gradually been increased to 65 and then to 66, to align with men. This change has had significant financial implications for women who had planned their retirement based on the earlier age and approximately 3.8 million women have suffered direct discrimination.

Additionally, many of these women, when in work, were advised to pay a married woman's stamp (National Insurance contribution (NI) which led to a reduced state pension. This generation also bore the brunt of childcare and were not routinely made aware that any NI credited on receipt of child benefit would be accredited to the father if they did not receive it in their own name.

Workplace Discrimination and the Pay Gap.

Women of this generation also faced systemic sex discrimination in the workplace, including unequal pay compared to their male counterparts. While progress has been made over the years, many women from this era still experience repercussions as they were unable to obtain a private pension.

50s women pension delay Report 2022.

In November 2022, a report was published by former judge the Hon Dr Jocelynne Scutt AO on the plight of 1950s women who have waited up to six years to get their delayed pension. When the report was published Jocelynne presented it to Parliament.

Finance and the NI Fund Shortfall.

The amount taken from 50s Women has been calculated as £181.4 Billion.

In 2019, CEDAWinLAW, along with other campaign groups, negotiated a £58bn settlement and Labour called it a debt of honour but has yet to pay up.

Other campaign groups were talking with the previous government about a settlement of £7 billion. However, such a small sum will not provide any kind of justice for both the sex discrimination and maladministration or for the financial losses 50s Women have actually incurred.

There is also approximately £80 Billion currently in the National Insurance Fund (NI Fund) which could be used to redress this discrimination.

There is also an estimated £271bn that is missing from the NI Fund, having been used for other purposes separate from the original intended purpose of the fund.

The NI Fund was initially proposed by William Beveridge. The National Insurance Act 1946 implemented many of Beveridge's recommendations. It expanded the scope of National Insurance to include a wide range of benefits, such as old-age pensions, widows' benefits, and sickness and unemployment benefits. The NI Fund was established to manage these contributions and payments.

CEDAW GR40 is a recommendation for the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems.

Our Aims.

To enact The 50s Women CEDAWinLAW campaign and CEDAW GR40 which aims to support women born in the 1950s in the UK by addressing systemic issues that have historically disadvantaged them and we aim to support them.

For the Green Party as a whole and our four newly elected MPs to support and pressurise the new Labour Government to rectify this historical wrong as a moral imperative and finally get these women the justice they deserve.

Conference calls upon the Green Party of England and Wales and our Members of Parliament to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to commit to the ADR with CEDAWinLAW representatives forthwith, stating our Party and Parliamentary support for the "The50s Women CEDAWinLAW Campaign" and CEDAW GR40 recommendation.
- Write to the Prime Minister for this purpose.
- Forward an Early Day Motion for this purpose, as necessary.

APPENDIX 7: MOTIONS WITH INSUFFICIENT PROPOSERS

Clarification of Template Constitution for Local and Regional Parties

Fairer Multiplier for the Prioritisation Ballot

Association of Green Councillors to Produce an Annual Impact Report

Independent Assessment of the Political Strategy

Abolish Green Lords (Policy and Organisation)

Creating Regional Parliaments

Enabling Motion for the International Chapter

Enabling Motion for the Revision of and Changes to the Peace, Security and Defence Policies

Enabling Motion to Rewrite the Social Security Chapter

Investigation into MOD Fraud and Corruption

Gaza

Play and Play Sufficiency

Reforming UK Elections to Voting Systems That Give Fully Accountable Representation

Support for Communities That Will Be Lost to Sea Level Rise

Heritage and Tourism Draft Voting Paper

APPENDIX 8: MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS RULED OUT OF ORDER

SOC Note: in a situation which this Committee has not previously encountered, all motions which were noted in our initial triage as being in danger of being Out of Order, and which then went on to receive sufficient co-proposers, have now been found to be in order as a result of following SOC feedback.

Consequently, this Appendix is left blank.

APPENDIX 9: RECORD OF ORGANISATIONAL STATEMENTS FOR STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

SOC refers to its report to be included as part of the Annual General Meeting 2024.

APPENDIX 10: STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders Committee Standing Orders

[As revised and approved by Standing Orders Committee August 2022]

1. Introduction

These Standing Orders are intended to set out basic principles that should shape the way in which SOC makes decisions. It is in addition to the rules & procedures established in the Constitution and the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference. Should there be a conflict of interpretation between these standing orders and the Constitution/SOCC then the Constitution/SOCC take precedence. These standing orders will be agreed at Conference from time to time via the SOC report.

2. SOC Convenor

Within a week of the end of each Autumn Conference SOC will appoint a Convenor or two Co-Convenors. In the event of a vacancy SOC must appoint a replacement within a week.

Fourteen weeks before each Conference, the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors must notify all members of SOC of the arrangements for SOC to discuss the first and final agenda for the forthcoming Conference. These details shall be advised to members on the member website by the Pre-Agenda deadline.

The Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors will maintain a copy of these standing orders.

3. Membership

The SOC Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors are appointed, or removed by a vote of no confidence, by a minimum of three members of SOC or a simple majority if there are fewer than five members of SOC.

Members of SOC may petition the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors to hold a vote to issue a rebuke to individual members, or the Co-Convenors may initiate such a vote of their own motion, with reasons given in advance of a meeting by telephone, online or in-person as described in section 6 below. This must also be by a minimum of three members of SOC or a simple majority if there are fewer than five members of SOC.

Having taken a vote to issue a rebuke, members of SOC may recommend in their report to an intervening Conference that this member be removed from their position on the Committee ahead of the next Annual Ballot.

4. Principles of Decision-Making

SOC will operate to the highest standards of accountability and transparency as regards decision-making. The key principles (in addition to those set out in the Constitution are):

- a) Decisions will always be in writing and make reference to the relevant sections of the party's Constitutional documents or other relevant principles;
- b) Where possible decisions will be taken by consensus of all members of SOC; where this is not possible (except where stated otherwise) all decisions will require that both a majority of members voted and that a majority voted for the proposal;

- c) Members may give advice, when asked, to others in the Party because of the special knowledge of documents they may have. In these circumstances it is must be made explicit that this is an individual view and not that of SOC, and that this does not constitute a formal ruling or advice.
- d) Co-optees to the Committee will be allowed to vote but their votes will not count towards determining if either of the required majorities have been reached;
- e) All decisions shall be taken with the knowledge of each member of SOC or one its sub-committees where possible. When giving advice or rulings, or otherwise communicating on SOC business where it has not yet been possible to come to a consensus view, members should consult with one another, and particularly the Convenor or Co-Convenors, before sending any message of their own which might not command the consensus of SOC as a whole.
- f) Members who occupy other positions in responsibility within the party must recognise where they have a potential conflict of interest in any discussions on SOC business, and recuse themselves accordingly if required.
- g) Members of SOC may speak to the merits of motions debated at a Party Conference, though only if they have first recused themselves from any discussion of it as part of normal SOC business.

5. Decisions That Must Be Taken at a Formal Meeting of SOC

- a) The agreement of the final agenda
- b) The content of the SOC report
- c) Changes to these Standing Orders
- d) Votes of No Confidence
- e) Votes to issue a rebuke

Formal meetings may be in person or by web, on-line or video conference. All other decisions can be taken at either a formal meeting, by a discussion & vote on the e-list or by web, online, video or telephone conference. The procedures for these are below. SOC members must ensure that they provide the SOC Convenor or Co-Convenors with a current e-mail address and telephone number.

6. Electoral Returning Officer (ERO)

SOC shall appoint an ERO for elections that take place as part of the Annual Ballot, and at Conference.

As per 9.ii of the Constitution, the ERO is responsible for drawing up Electoral Regulations for agreement by SOC. Standard practice in the Party is for Electoral Regulations to rollover from one election to the next, with the ERO proposing amendments to SOC as they see fit.

The ERO should be able to carry out their role during elections with minimal involvement of SOC. To this end, the ERO's decision is considered final. Where candidates wish to complain about an ERO's conduct, they should do so via the Party's complaints system as with any other member.

Where a candidate thinks the ERO has applied the electoral regulations unfairly during an election, or misinterpreted them, they should address this directly with the ERO in the first instance. Should the candidate remain dissatisfied, they may advise SOC of the situation.

Having considered the situation, SOC may advise the ERO where it thinks electoral regulations have been applied unfairly or misinterpreted. It is up to the ERO how and whether they act on this advice; SOC may not instruct an ERO to take a specific action.

Should SOC lose confidence in an ERO's ability to carry out their role, a vote of no confidence in the ERO may be held. Such a vote must be proposed and seconded at a quorate meeting of SOC, in confidential session, and will pass by simple majority vote. A precis of the decision should be drawn up for inclusion in the SOC Report.

In the event of the ERO post becoming vacant during an election, the Deputy ERO shall become Acting ERO until a new ERO can be appointed. In the absence of any Deputy EROs, a member of SOC may stand in as Acting ERO.

7. Decisions Other Than at a Formal Meeting of SOC

The SOC Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors will have the sole discretion to determine whether an item is suitable for decision other than at a formal meeting of SOC (eg. by e-mail or through an online platform such as Trello) with the exception of a vote of no confidence in the SOC Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors or a vote to issue a rebuke.

Before doing so the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors should consider the complexity of the decision to hand and the ability to have a proper discussion other than at a formal meeting. Generally, it is anticipated that following a request for a formal decision by e-mail, a discussion about the issue will have taken place (by e-mail, by telephone or by some other means) and this will assist the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors in reaching their decision.

Once the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors has decided to use means other than a formal meeting they should either upload the item to the relevant online platform, such as Trello, or else post a simple e-mail covering each decision to the list stating in the subject 'DECISION BY XX/YY/ZZ ON [SUBJECT]'.

In either case the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors should explain the decision to be made, make the relevant references to the Constitution & SOCC and where appropriate confirm the deadline for a response. The deadline for response should be no less than 24 hours. Further, if the deadline is less than 72 hours the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors should attempt to alert the SOC members of the vote by telephone.

Members of SOC should vote by simply replying to the list 'FOR' 'AGAINST' or 'ABSTAIN'.

If the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors has attempted to alert members as given above but by the deadline some have not voted, then for the purposes of 3(b) it is stated than in this situation there is not a requirement for a majority of members to have voted.

8. Online Spaces for Viewing SOC Business

The SOC Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors will maintain either an m-mail list ('E-list') or else an online platform or space (eg. Green Spaces and the SOC Stream) to which all SOC members and the Returning Officer can post items and any Green Party member can join on a 'read-only' basis.

9. Decision by web, on-line, video or telephone conference

Notice of a web, on-line, video or telephone conference should be published on the SOC E-list or platform described above along with a note of the business to be discussed during the conference at least 24 hours in advance of the conference. SOC may invite relevant people to participate in the conference. Requests from members to 'listen in' will normally be accepted. However such members have no automatic right to actively participate in the discussion.

Minutes covering decisions taken, the reasons for them, and votes cast will be circulated by the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors (or a person nominated by them) on the E-list or platform described above as soon as possible, ideally within 24 hours of the end of the conference. So that a contemporaneous record is kept of these conferences, when the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors posts the minutes onto the E-list or platform described above this will be taken as a proposal to accept the accuracy of the minutes, to be repeated as the first item of business at a subsequent web, on-line, video or telephone conference.

10. SOC Rulings

SOC will receive requests for rulings from time to time. SOC should refrain from issuing rulings based on vague & hypothetical situations since this could lead to the application of rulings out of context.

11. Emergency Business - Suspension of Standing Orders

If all members of SOC agree, these standing orders can be suspended for the purposes of a particular decision. However specifically business covered by (4) above cannot be discussed whilst these standing orders are suspended.

12. Changes to these Standing Orders

These Standing Orders can only be amended at a formal meeting of the Committee.

13. The SOC Report

The SOC Report should contain the following:

- (i) Rulings made and the reasons for them
- (ii) a list of the decisions made by E-list and web, on-line, video or telephone conference
- (iii)full details of any decisions made under Section A, part (9) above.

APPENDIX 11: CONTACT DETAILS OF PROPOSERS OF MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Motion	Lead Proposer/s	Contact Details
A01	Tim Kiely, Ash Routh	soc@greenparty.org.uk
A02, D05, D19, D27	Anne Gayfer	anne.gayfer@greenparty.org.uk
A03, D07, E08	Vivien Lichtenstein	vivienlgreenp@aol.com
D01	Peter Price	Peterprice311@gmail.com
D02, D17	Amanda Onwuemene	amandaonwuemene@wirral.gov.uk
D03, D21	Dylan Lewis-Creser	greenparty@dylanlewiscreser.co.uk
D04, D14, D15	Nate Higgins	green@nate.london
D06	Tom Scott	tom.scott@greenparty.org.uk
D08, D09, D10	Joseph Hudson-Small	joehs@me.com
D11	Linda Oubridge	loppy@phonecoop.coop
D12, E21	Kathryn Bristow	green@kathrynbristow.uk
D13, E19	Jake Welsh	jakewelsh@gmail.com
D16	Nicole Haydock	nicolehaydock@yahoo.com
D18, F06	John Coyne	john-coyne@zen.co.uk
D20	Siobhan Scanlan	siobhanbscanlan@gmail.com
E01, E03, E25	Phil Horton	p.j.horton@icloud.com
E02	Nadine Storey	nadinejstorey@gmail.com
E04	Alexander Sallons	alexandersallons@gmail.com
E05	Graham Tavener	tavenergraham@gmail.com
E06	Celia Coram	starsneedenergy@yahoo.co.uk
E07	Rajiv Sinha	maharajiv@yahoo.co.uk
E09	Ben Samuel	ben.samuel@yahoo.co.uk
E10	Emma Garnett	Emma_garnett@hotmail.co.uk
E11	George Ttoouli	gttoouli@gmail.com
E12	Edward Green	edwardgreen1350@gmail.com
E13	Darren Yates	darren.yates@greenparty.org.uk
E14	Ria Patel	Riapatel7568@gmail.com
E15	Julie Spriddle	julie.spriddle@gmail.com
E16	David Robinson	robinsondp@hotmail.co.uk
E17	Carl Benfield	<u>carlcbenfield@gmail.com</u>
E18	Peter Allen	peterallen0703@googlemail.com
E20	Diana Newson	diana@diananewson.co.uk
E22	Asma Alam	asma.alam101@gmail.com
E23	Thomas Atkin-Withers	Thomas26011@protonmail.com
E24	Shahrar Ali	Shahrar4gpewdeputy@gmail.com
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E28	TBC	TBC
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E30	Joe Rukin	joerukin@gmail.com
E32	Natalie Bennett	natalieben@gmail.com
F01	Jane Mitchell	ajencotts@gmail.com
F02	Peter Sims	ps@chiltern.org.uk

F03	Catherine Rowett	Professor.catherine@googlemail.com
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F05	Georgina Wright	georginajanewright@icloud.com